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CSSR's Dobrovsky Interviewed on Pact Meeting

AU2003163890 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 19 Mar 90 pp 1,2

[Bohuslav Borovicka report: "Businesslike and Open Negotiations"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Of the seven participants in the consultative meeting of foreign ministers of the Warsaw Pact member states, only J. Dienstbier and Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski took part in the closing news conference. Questions were related mostly to the process of unification of Germany. As for its NATO membership:

After a debate the spokesman of the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lubos Dobrovsky, admitted that in a wide spectrum of opinions at least one, belonging to Soviet Foreign Minister E. Shevardnadze, categorically opposed membership of the future Germany in NATO. From the words of Ministers Dienstbier and Skubiszewski it followed that, according to their judgment, the neutrality of Germany would be potentially more dangerous since it would be left with a free hand. Its integration into European structures, not excluding NATO, puts it under some sort of control.

[Reporter] Is military cooperation within the framework of the Warsaw Pact still being considered?

[Dobrovsky] This cooperation cannot be abolished immediately while there are still elements of military structure and coordination. This aspect of the Warsaw Pact should be losing its importance in favor of its character as a consultative body. It should become a political tool, particularly for disarmament talks with NATO as partner. The ministers underlined the need to accelerate the Helsinki process.

[Reporter] Did the participants agree upon further talks?

[Dobrovsky] A fixed schedule was not established. This meeting was the first after the serious changes which took place in East Europe and the objective was to become mutually familiar with opinions and positions, which were often quite new. The representatives of the Warsaw Pact will continue to meet at various levels as needed according to the situation.

[Reporter] The tone of the press report indicates that there was not much agreement achieved in the discussions.

[Dobrovsky] The aim was to consult one another and not to arrive at some agreement. The negotiations were businesslike and open. The participants agreed upon some questions, whereas in case of other questions some differences appeared.

Newspaper Assesses Malile Visit to Bulgaria

AU1603130790 Tirana ATA in English
0942 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Tirana, March 16 (ATA)—The government delegation of the PSR [People's Socialist Republic] of Albania, led by the foreign minister, Reis Malile, successfully wound up its official and friendly visit to Bulgaria, commentator Arben Karapici writes in the newspaper ZERI I POPULLIT. The receptions and meetings held there express the cooperation between our two countries and the fresh perspectives opened to these relations.

The visit and results of talks are a concrete contribution to the strengthening of cooperation and friendship between our two countries and peoples, to the further development of these relations to the mutual benefit. The agreements signed in Sofia on cooperation in the field of health and medical sciences, culture, arts, sports, and civil air transportation open fresh perspectives to this road and they will further develop in other fields, as in the economic and technical-scientific fields, etc.

We are bound with the Bulgarian people, the newspaper continues further on, not only with the ties in various fields and the sentiments of mutual respect, but in the first place by the ancient and traditional friendship between the two peoples, lying in the foundations of our relations. As two Balkan peoples, the Albanians and Bulgarians have maintained ancient ties. On this sound basis the conviction was expressed that in the future, too, the close friendship and cooperation between our fraternal peoples will keep strengthening and developing still more.

As two Balkan countries, Albania and Bulgaria consider the cooperation between them of special interest in the framework of the regional cooperation. On this basis they assessed the positive process of Balkan cooperation and stressed that the peoples and countries of the Balkans are able to find the roads of understanding and confidence and bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the region. The Albanian and Bulgarian foreign ministers expressed the readiness of their governments to continue the efforts in this direction. They emphasized also that the development of the bilateral relations is a basic factor to promote the multilateral Balkan cooperation.

Hailing the results of this successful visit, the newspaper writes in conclusion, the conviction is expressed that marching on this road the relations between the PSR [People's Socialist Republic of Albania and the PR [People's Republic] of Bulgaria will experience new positive developments.

Agriculture Minister Pali Miska To Visit Egypt

AU2203134290 Tirana ATA in English
0905 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Tirana, March 22 (ATA)—At the invitation of the vice-premier and minister of agriculture of Egypt Yusuf Wali, Pali Miska, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of agriculture, will pay an official friendly visit to Egypt, soon.

Ministers Attend New Telephone Service Ceremony

AU2103132990 Tirana ATA in English
0900 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Tirana, March 21 (ATA)—The inauguration ceremony of the new automatic inter-urban and international telephonic service in Albania was organized in one of the halls of Dajti Hotel in the capital, on March 20, afternoon.

Attending were also the minister under the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the Committee for Economic Cooperation With Foreign Countries, Farudin Hoxha; the minister of foreign trade, Shane Korbeci; the chairman of the executive committee of the district people's council, Llambi Gegprifti; the deputy minister for foreign affairs, Muhamet Kapllani; the director of the International Relations Study Institute, Prof Sofokli Lazri, and other comrades.

Attending this ceremony were the delegation of the Ministry of Transports and Communications of Greece, headed by the director of post-telecommunications, Yeoryios Antoniou; the delegation of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Italy, headed by its undersecretary, Senator Raffaele Russo; the representative of PNUD organisation, Liuin Miller [name as received]; the representative of the Organisation of the International Union of Telecommunications (UIT), the chief of the Technical Cooperation Department for Europe, Nabil Kisraui [name as received]; the general director of the Italtel firm, Gian Mario Costa [name as received], as well as invitees from other European firms.

Present were also heads of the diplomatic corps accredited to our country. [passage omitted]

Investigative Chief Urges Judicial 'Refinement'

AU2103181990 Tirana BASHKIMI in Albanian
14 Mar 90 pp 2, 3

[Article by Qemal Lame, chief of the General Bureau of Investigation of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania: "The Refinement of Socialist Democracy Also Requires the Further Revolutionization of Justice"]

[Excerpts] The ninth Albanian Workers Party [AWP] Central Committee plenum and Comrade Ramiz Alia's important instructions have opened up new horizons for the cadres of the judicial organs for the further revolutionization and the deepening of the democratic nature

of investigations, court procedure, and control of the prosecutor. The judicial organs are working concretely to fulfill the tasks for the further democratization of our judicial system. The investigative organs have raised their sense of responsibility in matters pertaining to law enforcement, drawing on the opinion of the masses in carrying out investigations at the scene of crimes and in apprehending the guilty parties, as well as with regard to the defense of rights and procedural guarantees for the accused and witnesses, and a better assessment of the evidence and greater objectivity in the investigation process.

Justice in our state of the dictatorship of the proletariat reflects the will of the people. The working masses are directly interested in the protection of the social and juridical order. They are therefore maintaining an active stand in law enforcement and in the timely notification of penal acts, as well as assisting in investigations and in the prevention of acts that are contrary to the law and to the norms of communist morality. [passage omitted]

The protection of citizens' rights is an important task of the investigative, court, and prosecuting organs. Any negligence in this matter, let alone any violation of procedures, incurs severe punishment. A person is accused, his penal responsibility is assessed, and he is sentenced on the basis of evidence. No person can be judged merely on suspicion or on the basis of prejudice of guilt. About 10 percent of all investigations are dropped due to lack of evidence. [passage omitted]

The Penal Procedure Code, enacted in conformity with the Constitution, guarantees the protection of the rights of the accused. During the investigation this is the responsibility of the investigator and is under the prosecutor's control. The decision of the ninth AWP Central Committee plenum concerning the role of defense lawyers during the investigation and in the courts has aroused special interest. This concretely reflects the further democratization of investigative processes and the party's solicitude to guarantee constitutional rights.

The investigator will no longer carry out his investigation as in the past. His activity was previously controlled by the prosecutor. The defense lawyer will now be present. We believe that defense lawyers should be present from the moment that a person is arrested and during his interrogation, the interrogation of witnesses, and all other procedures when demanded by the accused. Investigations in the presence of defense lawyers will further raise the sense of responsibility in the enforcement of the law and will ensure objectivity. The duty of the defense lawyer is to defend the law and the rights of the accused by ascertaining the truth. The aims of the investigator and of the defense lawyer are therefore identical. [passage omitted]

The practice of judicial organs and various studies have brought to light a number of problems concerning the refinement of laws and penal, procedure, and civil codes. In conformity with Comrade Enver Hoxha's instructions, a number of studies were initiated in 1981 and the ensuing period concerning the nature of crimes and some penal acts. The Council of Ministers is working to complete a number of tasks pertaining to the refinement of our legislature and the creation of a Justice Ministry that will take over responsibility for law enforcement in state administration, a scientific survey of codes, control over court procedures and defense, judicial expertise, and enactment of penal and civil decisions, and so forth. [passage omitted]

The improvement of the Penal Code will make it possible to better implement the procedural changes made in recent years, in conformity with the type of punishment. It is necessary for this aspect of our activity to become more familiar to the working masses. The number of people sentenced in our country is lower than in other European countries, judging by their figures. The majority of sentences are for theft involving small sums, as well as for crimes against the life or health of people. There is no organized or professional crime in our country. No one has been sentenced for penal acts concerning drugs or drug abuse. No one has been sentenced because of their religious beliefs. Even in the matter of what are considered to be "severe" crimes, the number of cases is limited. Thus, 89 persons have been accused of premeditated murder in 1989. [passage omitted]

Radio Reports Central Committee Member Funeral

AU2103200890 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Excerpt] The funeral of Comrade Mihallaq Qirjako, Albanian Workers Party Central Committee member, deputy of the People's Assembly, and Hero of the People, took place today in the city of Korce. [passage omitted]

Temporary Travel Restrictions for Romanians

AU2103163390 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1600 GMT 21 Mar 90

["Special announcement" by the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs]

[Text] On 19 March, an announcement was disseminated through the mass media concerning the complex situation in the region of the Malko Turnovo border crossing post, which had resulted from the new Turkish customs procedures and the large number of Romanian citizens wishing to visit Turkey.

Despite the efforts of the Bulgarian organs to resolve the problem by negotiations with the Romanian and Turkish authorities, the situation has become more complicated during the past 24 hours because of the continuing influx of Romanian cars and buses.

In order to bring the situation in the region back to normal, the competent Bulgarian authorities have adopted a decision, which came into force at 0000 today, to temporarily suspend the admission of Romanian citizens into Bulgaria through certain crossing points on the Bulgarian-Romanian border. After the Romanian citizens now in Bulgarian territory have passed into Turkey, a quota will be fixed for Romanian citizens who transit Bulgaria, depending on how many people are allowed entry by the Turkish side during a 24-hour period.

The Consular Department is authorized to state that this temporary restriction will be lifted as soon as the reasons that made it necessary have been eliminated.

'Nasty Incident' at Border

AU2103213690 Sofia BTA in English 1847 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Sofia, March 21 (BTA)—The BTA's Burgas correspondent Sava Maslarov reports that over 700 cars with Romanian licence plate are queuing up at the Malko Turnovo border check-point amidst heaps of roadside litter. Most of those waiting their turn to cross into Turkey are at the end of their tether. Jaded and exasperated, they have long overstayed their 30-hour Bulgarian transit visas. The shortest wait at this border crossing is week-long. The Turkish customs inspectors, who admit no more than 30 to 40 cars daily, probably have their own problems because the Romanian cars are overbrimming with all sorts of wares. The goods intended for sale in Turkey range from haberdashery and toys to tool kits and car tyres.

Mr. Georgi Kurtov, the top Bulgarian immigration officer on duty, claims that most of this merchandise is already stuffed into the warehouse of the Turkish customs post.

A nasty incident occurred early this morning. Romanians blocked the road with barriers and formed a human chain trying to halt the Turkish bus operated by the Champion Company on scheduled service to Turkey. After prolonged negotiations the bus crossed the border but stopped on the other side. "Those who rode in the bus waited for us on Turkish territory," says Mr. Fieraru Daniel of Pitesti. "They beat up the women and smashed my car. I've had enough of that hour spent in Turkey. I'm driving back."

GDR Election Results Assessed

AU2103142690 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 20 Mar 90 p 4

[Radoslav Velev article: "Isolated Accident or Trend"]

[Text] It is not unbelievable, still it is not a real fact: "99.7 percent of those who participated in the first GDR People's Chamber elections on 15 October 1950 voted for the program and candidates of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] National Front." This sentence is an extract from the book entitled: "The GDR—Its Coming Into Existence and Development," published by the Dietz Verlag in Berlin in 1974. Unfortunately, the name of the organ that was elected is the only existing link between the first People's Chamber elections and the last, which were held on 18 March 1990 in the GDR. Only today, after 40 years, is it possible to obtain the first unmanipulated picture of the people's moods and aspirations in the country to which the ruling Stalinist regime had attached the highly pretentious label "workers and peasants' state" with which it tried to impress the whole world.

We know why these first free People's Chamber elections will be the last. Their purpose was to elect a representative people's organ to give a green light from the East for the reunification of the two German states. Nevertheless, the elections were by no means a mere formality. The results showed how much one of the most humanitarian ideals of mankind was discredited in the GDR and the great distance that existed between the majority of the people and the ruling Communist Party. Built on 13 August 1961, the Berlin Wall was the material proof testifying to the fear and impotence of a repressive, command-adminstrative form of "socialism" that was trying to manipulate and totally control the citizens of this state. The results of the first free, parliamentary elections in the GDR, on the other hand, provide factual evidence of the criminal way in which a historical chance was wasted.

What should be done now? The East German Communists are parting with the dominant role they used to play in the country's society, and taking into consideration the weak position of the German Communist Party [DKP] in the FRG, we can say that the heirs of Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, Rosa Luxemburg, Ernst Thaelmann, and Wilhelm Pieck are expected to disappear from the German political scene for a long time. Was it possible to prevent this development?

As in the other East European states, the reformers, the honest and sensible Communists, who were not only

kept in the background, but also repressed under the totalitarian system, could only be promoted to leading positions in the party and country following the SED Central Committee Plenum on 18 October 1989. This was not the result of sudden love or enlightenment on the part of the higher- echelon aparatchiks, but an urgent political necessity dictated under the pressure of street demonstrations. Under the leadership of modern and honest Communists, such as Hans Modrow and Gregor Gysi, the SED accomplished a drastic programmatic change toward its own transformation into a left-wing, Marxist party that broke with dogmatism, conservatism, and Stalinism once and for all.

The fact that the SED was renamed the Party of Democratic Socialism was a logical expression of this development. Unfortunately, all these actions were greatly delayed and could hardly compensate for the great damage inflicted by the Stalinist dictatorship, so that the people's confidence could not be restored (despite the fact that a basis for such confidence existed in the first years following the establishment of the GDR, although the percentage of voters hardly represented 99.7 percent even in those days).

The fact that the Communist Party in the GDR would step down from the political scene was not unexpected. Nevertheless, the drastic decline in popularity of the organizations and movements that were actually responsible for the "October revolution" against Erich Honecker's regime in 1989, was surprising. Movements such as the "New Forum," "Democracy Now," and "Human Rights Initiative" were the ones that in the streets of Leipzig and Berlin, Schwerin and Dresden courageously launched the appeals for democratic reforms and for a social system with a human face in the GDR. Without the volatile actions of these movements and organizations, the Honecker regime could hardly have been so quickly overthrown. These progressive, left-wing forces joined together in the the "Alliance—'90" platform for the 18 March elections, but did not obtain the substantial support of the voters. Why was that so?

The REUTER News Agency evaluated the election results as follows: "Unlike the Solidarity movement in Poland and the Civic Forum in Czechoslovakia, which have already seized the government power in their respective countries, the pioneers of the opposition in East Germany were crushed by the panicky race for prosperity and reunification with West Germany." It is true that after the "breakthrough" of the Berlin Wall and the lifting of the barriers at the German-German border, the prevailing mood of GDR citizens underwent a basic change—the slogan for the GDR's democratization was replaced by the desire for reunification with West Germany.

The majority of GDR citizens saw and see an opportunity to drastically improve their inadequate living standards and their future prospects in the suddenly opening possibility of reunification with the FRG. The beautiful dream of a humane socialist GDR faded in the prospect of the emerging opportunity for the East Germans to rapidly achieve prosperity by attaching themselves to the coattails of their elder brother. This also explains the convincing victory of the Christian Democrats and of their other conservative partners in last Sunday's [18 March] elections. They promised early reunification for the two German states, while their supporters in Bonn promised generous economic assistance. The majority of voters considered this a more attractive opportunity than the more cautious approach recommended by the East German Social Democrats.

We would presumably be mistaken in explaining the election result in the GDR only by the specific circumstances and factors, such as the prospect of future reunification, the psychological effect exerted by the temptation of a higher living standard, the direct interference of FRG politicians in the election campaign, and so forth. All this is not subject to any doubt. However, we should ask ourselves whether the election results in the GDR represent an isolated incident or whether they indicate a trend applying to all East European countries?

The definite answer can be provided relatively soon. Parliamentary elections are expected in Hungary on 25 March and 8 April 1990, in Romania on 20 May, and in Czechoslovakia on 8 and 9 June. REUTER's forecasts that "the election results are expected to bring to power governments oriented toward the West that will change the political and economic map of Europe, which has been divided since the late forties into a capitalist West and a communist East." For the sake of the whole truth, however, we should not omit REUTER's opinion on the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Bulgaria, according to which "on the basis of public opinion polls the presently ruling Communist Party is the most popular political force in the country...."

'Complex Nature' of Issue

AU2103141090 Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 21 Mar 90 p 4

[Ivan Undzhiev article: "German Issue After Elections"]

[Text] Surprise was the first reactions after the results of the GDR parliamentary elections were published. The surprise was general, and even those who should be happy with the victory of the "Alliance for Germany" tripartite union of the radical rightist parties were surprised.

The three parties that comprise the alliance—the Christian Democratic Party, the German Social Union, and the Democratic Awakening, received more than 48 percent of the votes and again proved what a risky venture political forecasting is.

Surprise or not, the election results already are a fact, and they reflect to the greatest degree the real correlation of the political forces in the GDR at the present dramatic moment. We can assume that the picture that emerges is

absolutely objective, because the GDR citizens demonstrated great political activity (according to statistical data more than 93 percent of those eligible to vote did vote), and by their participation in the first free and democratic elections they expressed their political will. This exceptionally high turnout clearly shows that nobody is indifferent toward the country's future, whose outlines are perhaps clearly marked. However, every attempt to look into the details encounters many unknown factors.

The main conclusion that emerges is that the GDR people categorically supported the reunification of Germany. It was obvious even during the election campaign that this issue occupies a central place, and that the treatment of this issue by the platforms of the various parties would determine the success of those parties in the elections. Without doubting the future reunification of the two German states, the parties have different views of the road that should lead to this reunification. The election results showed that the GDR citizens support the idea of the most rapid integration possible along the road of economic and monetary union, and subsequently state union with the Federal Republic.

Political forecasts really are a risky venture but, nevertheless, a glance from the side occasionally provides an advantage in engaging in assessment and analysis without the emotional connotations that are inevitable in the case of direct participants in the processes. In this sense, the will to reunite, no matter how massively demonstrated, does not always conform with the real possibilities of its rapid implementation. Without being ill-wishers or pessimists, we must point out the great difficulties that await the process of German reunification, which, if nothing else, will at least postpone its real implementation. Those difficulties are of domestic and international political character.

Let us examine what the Christian Democrats, who won the people's support, offer. From a domestic point of view, they envision effecting monetary-financial union with the FRG within three months. This means a uniform currency, which under the existing realities can only be the FRG mark. Its exchange rate with the GDR mark is now approximately one to 10. If we add to this the fact that wages in the GDR are about 10 times lower, in practice we have a decrease of the standard of living by 100 times. It is not difficult to predict the serious social shocks that the GDR working people will experience. Let us not forget that, despite the fact that the GDR is among the 10 most developed industrial countries in the world, about two-thirds of its enterprises will not be able to compete with Western enterprises, which in the final analysis means great cuts and unemployment. According to preliminary calculations, about 4 million people could become unemployed. In addition, it is very difficult to envision what will happen to the GDR citizens' social benefits when the country introduces a market economy. Concern has been expressed that they could not be preserved in their present form.

From an international point of view, the issue of the guarantee for peace and security remains open. The reunification formula now being proposed is far from perfect. Both neighbors and allies express a justified fear that the principles of the postwar agreements in Europe could be revised. Along the Rhine they coyly avoid the issue of the Oder-Neisse border, and do not discuss any other variant except Germany remaining a member of NATO. This evokes the serious problem of the future of the foreign troops on German territory, which at a certain moment could be a decisive factor in the stability of the continent. Obviously the "Four-Plus-Two" conference will encounter serious problems. The agreements that it will produce will determine to a large degree the future of the all-European process. The complex nature of the problem requires at least sufficient time.

One way or another, the GDR elections illuminated the complex German problem to a certain degree. At least the results demonstrated that resolving this problem is an issue of great importance, which should not be postponed.

North Atlantic Assembly Deputies Meet Lilov

AU2103205190 Sofia BTA in English 1902 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Sofia, March 21 (BTA)—The North Atlantic Assembly expressed its support and sympathy for the new ideological trends of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP]. Mr. Patrick Duffy, president of the North Atlantic Assembly, today told Mr. Aleksandur Lilov, chairman of the BCP Supreme Council, that his party's desire to keep Bulgaria's membership in the Warsaw Treaty is understandable. The continued existence of that bloc is in the best interests of security, Mr. Duffy went on to say.

Before answering their numerous questions, Mr. Lilov familiarized his guests with the Bulgarian Communists' views on the situation in the country and on a way out of the grave economic, political and social crisis. He motivated the BCP insistence on early holding of free elections by the urgency of the outstanding problems. The BCP wants a post-election coalition government, a peaceful transition to democracy, an economic reform based on market mechanisms and a normal opposition.

Mr. Erol Agacil, a Turkish M.P. [member of parliament], raised the possibility to invite a Turkish observer of the elections, something which, as he put it, could contribute to closer ties between Turkey and Bulgaria. Mr. Aleksandur Lilov took a positive view of such a presence but recalled that these matters are within the competence of the government.

"We consider ourselves as an inseparable though modest part of Europe, and we rely on Europe's support in the democratization processes," the chairman of the BCP Supreme Council said.

The North Atlantic Assembly delegation also conferred with representatives of the opposition Union of Democratic Forces [UDF] who familiarized them with the union's structure and with the opposition's ideas of the changes in Bulgaria.

Assoc. Prof. Petko Simeonov, member of the Coordinating Council of the Union of Democratic Forces, said that the opposition will be united at the forthcoming elections and that the future government will be undoubtedly a coalition one because the union itself is an umbrella organisation of many parties.

The Union of Democratic Forces keeps calling into question the BCP policy. The hosts raised the need of material support for the opposition.

Meet Army Chief of Staff

AU2103204790 Sofia BTA in English 1716 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Sofia, March 21 (BTA)—On the third day of their visit here, a delegation of the North Atlantic Assembly held talks with senior Bulgarian military officers, something unthinkable until recently. The host, Colonel General Khristo Dobrev, first deputy minister of national defence and chief of the General Staff of the Bulgarian People's Army, stressed that unconventional ways should be sought today to build national security on the basis of the joint efforts to build a collective security system.

General Khristo Dobrev outlined Bulgaria's military doctrine, which is strictly defensive in nature. It rules out warfare as a means of dispute settlement and provides for offensive operations in as much as they would help restore the country's territorial integrity.

The general said that the General Staff is working now to lend a defensive character to the Armed Forces' structures. Sixty per cent of the schedule is devoted to defence development. Offensive arms, including advanced tanks, are being reduced, and defensive weapons get preferential treatment.

Now the 107,000-strong Bulgarian Army has in its inventory 2,000 tanks, 3,790 mortars, 3,274 combat vehicles, 214 warplanes, 51 helicopter gunships and 100 warships. Over the last few years military spending has tended to decline, and Bulgaria's economy stands to gain by this, General Khristo Dobrev said. He deplored the fact that the policy of peace and cooperation is still not irreversible and that there are negative tendencies in international life.

The general said that Turkey has yet to take an active share in the disarmament processes and that if it makes concessions in this direction, additional conditions will emerge for Bulgaria to reduce its military spending and for Greece to adopt a similar approach.

The chief of the General Staff believes that now that Bulgaria has acknowledged and is rectifying the past mistakes in connection with the infringement of the Bulgarian Muslims' rights, conditions are available for the normalization of Bulgaro-Turkish relations. He expressed readiness for talks with competent Turkish officials to discuss the problems of mutual security.

Mr. Ismail Sengun, a Turkish M.P. [member of parliament], said that there are illusory notions of Turkey's intentions and that Ankara has no aggressive designs on Bulgaria.

The first deputy minister of national defence said that the development of this country's armed forces depends on the outcome of the Vienna talks. He stressed the need of agreements guaranteeing the security of the flank countries and ruling out the possibility of moving armaments and armed forces to other areas, the Balkans included.

General Dobrev recalled that Bulgaria does not possess mass destruction weapons and favours their prohibition.

He also discussed conversion problems, saying that by the mid-1990's, 85 per cent of the defence industry capacities are to be converted to peaceful production.

Later in the day, the guests visited a tank brigade and readily took the photo-ops with materiel in the background.

Further on Delegation Visit

TA2203091290 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 0530 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Members of the North Atlantic Assembly's East European and Soviet Affairs Subcommittee, who are currently in Bulgaria, are continuing their contacts. Delegation members, including Denizli Deputy Ismail Sengul and Ankara Deputy Erol Agagil, met in Sofia with the Bulgarian chief of staff and deputy defense minister. The issue of arms and troops reduction in Europe was raised during the meeting.

After visiting an armored unit in Sofia, delegation members met with Bulgarian Communist Party leader Aleksander Lilov. The Turkish deputies told Lilov that Turkey is pleased with the Bulgarian decision allowing Turks to use their old names and restoring their rights. They reiterated that Turkey does not covet any territory from any of its neighbors.

Delegation members later met with officials of the Union of Democratic Forces, the strongest Bulgarian opposition group. The officials criticized the reign of Todor Zhivkov, which ended on 10 November, adding that they have struegled for the restoration of the democratic system and the rights of the Muslims and Turks in the country.

Delegation members earlier met with Bulgarian National Assembly President Stanko Todorov, Foreign Minister Boyko Dimitrov, and members of the Assembly's National Defense and Domestic Affairs Committee.

Parliament Committee To View Links With Israel

AU2103193290 Sofia BTA in English 1721 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Sofia, March 21 (BTA)—It was formally announced here that the matter of re-establishing diplomatic relations between Bulgaria and Israel will go before the National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Policy on Tuesday, March 27.

Bulgaria broke off diplomatic relations with Israel on June 10, 1967.

Authorities To Cooperate in 'Umbrella Affair'

AU2103162390 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 18 Mar 90 pp 1, 5

[Article by unidentified RABOTNICHESKO DELO correspondent: "London Will Perhaps Assist in Investigating the 'Bulgarian Umbrella'"]

[Text] London, 17 March—There is a chance that Bulgaria may send representatives of our Prosecutor's Office to Great Britain for assistance in the investigations into the mysterious death of Bulgarian writer Georgi Markov in September 1978. This was announced by the Foreign Office yesterday with reference to the recent talks between William Waldegrave, British Foreign Office minister of state, and Dimitur Zhulev, Bulgaria's ambassador to London. As we already know, this question was discussed with Bulgarian officials during Mr. William Waldegrave's recent visit to Sofia after the British representative had expressed his disasppointment in connection with the case. He presumably expected to learn more, but the Bulgarian authorities said that Bulgaria has nothing to add to the disclosure of the mystery.

Following Georgi Markov's death, when the opinion that this was an assassination organized by the Bulgarian special services gradually but persistently prevailed in the British media, Bulgarian officials proposed to send experts to London to assist Scotland Yard in its investigations. London rejected this cooperation at that time. The Foreign Office's present announcement may be interpreted in the context that there are no longer any objections to the Bulgarian Prosecutor's Office sending its representatives to London. It appears that the changes in East Europe have had a positive effect even in this respect.

With the intention of learning more about the case, I interviewed Mr Roy Paine, head of the British Home Office press department. A month ago he explained to me that no one has definitely established either the kind of poison that was used or the instrument with which it was injected. The police refused to provide any information whatsoever. Mr. Roy Paine now pointed out that the Home Office is unable further to elucidate this picture, and that the police are in charge of the investigation. He further stated that the Home Office has no part in this investigation and that the British police are not the extended arm of the government. It is, however, evident that the investigation into Markov's death will not be closed so long as the culprit has not been discovered and handed over to the authorities. The British police still intend to bring someone to trial, either the murderer himself, or the person who isssued the order to kill Markov. Mr. Paine said that as long as this investigation is proceeding Scotland Yard would refrain from making any announcements on the case.

One thing so far is clear—the British side is convinced that it was an assassination and as long as either the perpetrators or the instigators have not been discovered "it will not give up," regardless of the fact that no traces whatsoever of a poison, of an umbrella, or of a killer have been found. Motives exist, as a matter of fact, but no state based on the rule of law can build up a legal case just on motives. Let us hope that the involvement of the competent Bulgarian authorities in the investigation of the mystery, which was delayed for as long as 11 and a half years, may contribute somewhat to dispelling the "umbrella shadow," which affects our relations not only with United Kingdom, but with the whole Western world.

BCP Supreme Council Adopts Election Platform

AU2103212590 Sofia BTA in English 2049 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Sofia, March 21 (BTA)—The Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] election platform was the centrepiece of a meeting which the BCP Supreme Council held here today.

The BCP Supreme Council resolved to approve the BCP election platform and to assign to the working group to amend it in line with the suggestions made at the debate.

The document will be published immediately after a date is set for the National Assembly elections.

A central headquarters for political and propaganda work of the party has been set up for the election campaign. The BCP regional councils will also set up such commissions.

The BCP Supreme Council considered an open letter from Mr. Boyko Dimitrov, Georgi Dimitrov's adopted son, in which he raises the matter of the Georgi Dimitrov Mausoleum and of a burial of his mortal remains.

Considering that Georgi Dimitrov is one of the greatest political figures in Bulgaria's contemporary history and that his life work and services are of great national and international significance, the BCP Supreme Council believes that the question concerning the mausoleum and the mortal remains cannot be solved by the BCP Supreme Council alone. It formed a commission of noted and respected statesmen, politicians, public, scientific and cultural figures and relatives of Georgi Dimitrov which should look into the heart of the matter and should suggest a solution.

The commission will have to submit a suggestion to the competent party and state bodies by June 15, 1990.

The BCP Supreme Council approved the composition of a central commission on the party name referendum, chaired by Army General Dobri Dzhurov.

Government Economic Reform Program Criticized

AU2103140490 Sofia BTA in English 1308 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Sofia, March 21 (BTA)—The radical economic reform planned by the government is in contradiction with the urgent actions of the economic management, writes in an article for TRUD Ivan Kostov, Ph.D. in economics. In the government economic programme he makes a differentiation between stated strategic intentions of the BCP [Bulgarian Communist Party] and the pack of current economic and political solutions. This, according to him, is necessary because the strategic orientation of the government will gain an economic significance merely if the BCP wins the elections. And the wish to carry a radical reform is incompatible with the desire to save power. Thus, according to Kostov, the only chance for the ruling party to save its political prestige is to postpone the reform for after the elections and to seek compromises about the urgent measures.

The writer notes that the first compromise in the project is in the attempt for a strategic and current planning without the obligatory preliminary analysis, without describing the reasons and the culprits for the economic downfall. This compromise, according to the economist, is dictated by the narrow-party interest to avoid the responsibility for the present situation.

The second compromise is said to be the helplessness of the Bulgarian economy to make attempts for correct payment of the foreign debt. The demands of society that a special commission will investigate the reasons for the sharply increased foreign debt and then decide its fate are neglected. According to Ivan Kostov the government is trying to preserve not so much the country's prestige of a strict payer, but rather it does not want to admit the real foreign economic bankruptcy of the ruling class.

Another compromise is the postponement for after the elections of the price and taxation reform, which, according to the author, are the most important and painfully urgent measures. Without them the whole concept for an urgent investment cannot be materialized. Ivan Kostov says that the adoption of the version for gradual reform saves the government the negative social consequences of price and taxation reform, but to the account of national economic interests. As an essential weakness of the government programme is criticised the lack of a clear position about the raised strike wave for increase of payments.

A compromise is made with the quality of the developed programme, says the economist. There is no accord between socio-economic and budget programme, between the budget and the urgent measures, between urgent measures and the plan for socio-economic development.

On the basis of all this Ivan Kostov makes the conclusion that in the time when it will adopt efficient measures, the government will try to preserve the situation in the foreign economic sphere and will sacrifice everything else. The author's prognosis is that this will bring to an eruption of strikes and the economy will get out of control.

In the end of the article it is said that even if the Communist Party was to win the elections and to wish a radical change, this party will be blocked along the way of the reform. The author thinks that the BCP cannot carry the transition to a new society.

Results of Election Law Poll Cited

AU2103130590 Sofia BTA in English 1110 GMT 21 Mar 90

["What Should the Election Law Be Like"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, March 21 (BTA)—Elections in Bulgaria are set for June. "What should the election law be like?", this is the topic of the legal and sociological research made by the Institute of Law at the Academy of Sciences. The polled are jurists and citizens without law education. The results were published in yesterday's issue of DEMOKRATSIYA.

Not many people, 28.8 per cent, have chosen the present majority election system, which was the mainstay of the election scheme. A small percentage of the polled back the version, raised up till now as a symbol of national democracy "one of us". Only 9 per cent know their national representative, 75 per cent have never heard of him.

Only 1.5 per cent have expressed a wish that parliament should preserve its present form.

4.5 per cent back the idea that the Fatherland Front should continue its control functions on elections holding.

Various opinions have been expressed concerning the time of elections. The BCP [Bulgarian Communist Party] and BZNS [Bulgarian Agrarian National Union] demand for elections to take place in May-June is backed by 52 per cent, the SDS [Union of Democratic Forces] one by 25.8 per cent. 13 per cent prefer the compromise of September.

The M.P. should be a competent expert: jurist, economist, politologist, is the opinion of 50 per cent of the polled. "He should be from the circles of the electors" demand 26.8 per cent. "He should only be honest and stick to principles" demand 12.5 per cent.

There are 88.2 per cent who want a National Assembly with more parties represented in it. Prevailing are the preferences for "a liberal" regime for participation in the elections of the political parties and groups: 61.2 per cent. Polarized are the assessments for raising the nominations by social organizations which are not political parties.

A total of 57.3 per cent prefer versions of the proportional election system, while 28.8 per cent are for the majority one.

The authors of the study come at the end to the categorical conclusion that the future election law should not resemble the present one. There is a recommendation to turn special attention to the mechanisms for elections control.

Human Rights Committee on Nationality Issue

AU2103205190 Sofia BTA in English 1859 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Sofia, March 21 (BTA)—The Human Rights Committee has issued a declaration calling for strict observance and enforcement of the Bulgarian Citizens' Names Act and for an activation of the work of the government commission for an early settlement of the social problems which have arisen due to the unlawful acts and abuses committed by state bodies during the mass exodus to Turkey last summer.

The document is occasioned by the conviction that Bulgaria is going through an ethnic crisis and that any delay or partial implementation of the decisions taken since November 10, 1989, may confront the country with further fateful ordeals.

The declaration expresses the opinion that a national consensus on the key points of the Bulgarian nation consolidation policy should secure Bulgaria's sovereignty, territorial integrity and frontier inviolability. The possibility of territorial, ethnic or any other autonomy should be ruled out.

At a general meeting held today, the committee voted an address to the heads of government of the Balkan countries on the ethnic issue, calling on them to help achieve a democratic solution of the problems concerning the treatment of ethnic, linguistic and religious communities on their territories on the basis of the principles of free expression of will, equality, non-discrimination and tolerance in compliance with the Helsinki Final Act and the Madrid and the Vienna concluding documents. The Balkan countries' leaders are called to declare a reciprocal renunciation of any territorial claims and to ban activities which encourage movements for autonomy and separatism.

The Human Rights Committee also took a stand on the death penalty in Bulgaria. Another declaration suggests that until the death penalty is finally abolished, an immediate moratorium be imposed on its administration.

Export Conference Held at Trade Ministry

AU0203225390 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] A conference took place today at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations with the leaders of the main goods producers of commodities and services for export and foreign trade organizations, and with representatives of banks and the Ministry of Economics and Planning, the Ministry of Industry and Technologies, and others.

Petur Bashikarov, of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, made a speech on the results of foreign economic activity in 1989, the conditions emerging in the international market, and the forthcoming tasks.

State Council Chairman Andrey Lukanov described the government's position on the measures required for resolving the problems of the national economy and the foreign trade field in an integrated way, in the conditions of a gradual changeover to a market-based economy.

The participants in the conference made proposals for activating foreign trade activity and stimulating the production of goods and services for foreign markets.

Former Union Central Council Dismissed

AU0203151890 Sofia BTA in English 1325 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Sofia, March 2 (BTA)—Yesterday the full-time staff members of the former Central Council of the Bulgarian Trade Unions received notice of dismissal, today's RABOTNICHESKO DELO writes.

The head office of the Confederation of the Bulgarian Independent Syndicates will be formed within a month. Its personnel will be 2.5 times fewer.

It is announced that not a single lev from the membership fees will be spent on the maintenance of the apparatus. The maintenance means will be raised through carrying out economic activity.

Social Democrats Ask Gabrovo MP's To Resign

AU0103214590 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2100 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] At an all-city meeting of the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party [BSDP] held in Gabrovo, a vote of no-confidence was passed in the National Assembly by deputies representing the Gabrovo constituency.

In an open letter on behalf of the BSDP municipal organization, Emil Khristov, Trifon Pashov, and their

other colleagues from the constituency are asked to submit their resignations at the forthcoming National Assembly session.

A resolution was adopted that rejects the attempts of the Yugoslav National Assembly to raise the nonexisting Macedonian nationality issue and also supports the demand for the disbanding of the primary party organizations at workplaces.

Repression Victims Seek 'Full Rehabilitation'

AU0103131790 Sofia BTA in English 1023 GMT 1 Mar 90

["Victims of Post-1945 Repressions Want Full Rehabilitation"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, March 1 (BTA)—"We the victims of repression do not seek retribution but want full political, legal and civil rehabilitation for the people convicted for political reasons," says Mr Dimitur Batalov, chairman of the Post-1945 Repression Victims Club, in an interview for the SVOBODEN NAROD weekly.

Mr Batalov estimates that about 186,000 people have been repressed for political reasons since 1944. The club now has a membership of 3,600, including 1,200 emigres.

The club was established in Plovdiv in order to condemn "the heinous legislation enacted under the authoritarian rule". The club is a founding member of the Union of Democratic Forces.

The club is campaigning for political, economic and legal reforms and for amendments to the Constitution. It favours a supremacy of public opinion exercised through parliamentary elections and parliamentary control of government and genuine power to the people.

Lack of Progress in Forming Mixed Companies

AU0103131590 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 28 Feb 90 p 4

[Krasimir Tsigularov article: "Clear Guarantees—No Candidates"]

[Text] Some 47 mixed companies have been or are in the process of being registered in our country in the last 10 years. Their declared constituent capital is about 40 million leva. The average foreign participation is 43 percent. There are 17 independent branches of Western companies with a total constituent capital of 2 million leva. Most of the mixed companies and branches are outside the production sphere. The Decree on Economic Activity that now applies is relatively liberal; however, it imposes certain restrictions on the import of capitals. However, there are no export restrictions. More than 180 companies have been registered outside the borders of our country.

Some 20 mixed companies have been registered in the nine years since the introduction of Decree No. 535 in 1980. One of them was liquidated. During those years our legislation was relatively liberal, but the investments were limited. In practice, this was a time of gaining experience and of attempting to place the new forms within the planned-administrative economy. Naturally, the special status of the companies did not serve as a stimulus of intensive development. In 1989, after the introduction of Decree No. 56, there was a certain stir—28 new companies were formed. Their sphere expanded. However, it is mixed companies that are most frequently being formed, and this is a complicated matter. The final result of the entire venture is simply discouraging. Very little has been achieved against the background of such a liberal legislation.

In principle there still is interest. At present there are nine agreements on mutual protection of investments. There are talks, and our representations across the border develop great explanatory activity. However, when things reach the stage of specific agreements, the interest sharply decreases.

There are several factors that hold development back. Bulgaria is a small country with a limited market, and thus it does not evoke a serious interest. One notes the predominant willingness to develop trade activity without investing capital in production. We have a limited range of raw materials and other materials, while the raw materials markets was practically destroyed. In addition, the foreign partners have doubts about the quality of production.

The core of the problem is probably in the insecure character of our legislation. It contains many contradictions and imperfections—while one door opens, another closes. Otherwise, our legislation is rather ambitious. The decree envisions tax alleviations for investments higher than 5 million leva in convertible foreign currency, or in cases of participation in the constituent fund that exceeds 49 percent. While nobody has yet jumped at the opportunity and invested 5 million leva, most of the mixed companies established in 1989 enjoy tax alleviations. In addition, they enjoy much more favorable conditions than our companies. However, many issues related to labor regulations, such as the wages of those companies' employees, have not been clarified yet. In some of them, the Bulgarian employees can receive a part of their wage in foreign currency, in others the situation is different. This makes the partners laugh. In addition, it is the Ministry of Economy and Planning that issues permits, while it is the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations that coordinates them.

The situation with the custom-free zones is rather picturesque. The procedure of creating mixed companies in this sphere is extremely difficult. The activity of companies in this sphere is simultaneously controlled by two decrees that contradict each other. The taxation of representatives of the foreign companies also is unclear. This is a part of our present "legacy."

In addition, today we must take into consideration the sharp competition of the other East European countries that in many cases offer better conditions and do not deal with decrees.

Generally, there are no candidates to rescue our economy from its crisis.

Ecology, Health Measures for Lead Plant

AU2802212790 Sofia BTA in English
2023 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Sofia, February 28 (BTA)—With a view to improving the environment around the metallurgical plants in Plovdiv and Kurdzhali, the Council of Ministers today approved additional measures drafted by the Ministry of Industry and Technology. The measures have been discussed at meetings with members of the public, with representatives of Ecoglasnost and other organisations.

The environmental pollution in the areas of the two plants will be reduced already this year. The production of lead will be cut by nearly 27,000 tons, which makes it possible to operate all facilities with optimal control of gas emissions. The ecological problem will be ultimately and durably eliminated after the plants are overhauled.

Under the Council of Ministers decision, as from March 1 lead production will drop by 28 per cent, as will the consumption of the metal in the country. As a result, the amount of gas emissions is expected to diminish by 33 per cent, of dust particles by 40 per cent, of lead aerosols 2.2 times, and of cadmium aerosols two times from the 1989 levels.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Food Industry has been assigned to compile a soil cadastre for the surroundings of the two plants and to give appropriate land use recommendations to the cooperative farms and the municipalities in the area.

The Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare will work out and implement therapeutic and preventive measures and will monitor the health condition of the local population and of the metalworkers.

Lead production will be terminated in Plovdiv and Kurdzhali by the end of 1994. A new lead production plant should be built elsewhere until that date. The designs will be open to a thoroughgoing scrutiny by specialised international organisations and the Bulgarian public. A consortium with foreign participation is to be formed to finance the designs and the construction of the new facilities.

Government Investigates Civic Unrest in South

AU2802212490 Sofia BTA in English
2027 GMT 28 Feb 90

["Cabinet Panel To Probe Breaches of the Peace"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, February 28 (BTA)—The Council of Ministers appointed a government commission of inquiry into the incidents which occurred in the town of Dospat and in other population centres in southern Bulgaria. The panel comprises representatives of the Prosecutor General's Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Justice.

On February 22, 1990, a group of citizens surrounded the local council headquarters in the town of Dospat and obstructed the proceedings of the municipal council session underway at the time. The protestors demanded the resignation of the council leadership. During the night some officials were insulted and threatened.

A similar incident happened in the village of Barutin, Plovdiv Region, and in other population centres on February 27.

History of Macedonian Issue Reviewed

AU2802162190 Sofia BTA in English
1545 GMT 28 Feb 90

["Concessions and the Truth About the Pirin Area"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, February 28 (BTA)—Prof. Dr. Dobrin Michev discussed the place of the Pirin area in Bulgaro-Yugoslav relations in yesterday's and today's KOOPERATIVNO SELO.

The author recalls the devious path which the BCP [Bulgarian Communist Party] has trodden in its views on the Macedonian question. Until the 1920's the party regarded the population of Macedonia as Bulgarian. Unlike the government, the BCP campaigned for a settlement of the ethnic issue not through war but through a Balkan federation of democratic republics.

The first concessions were made in the late twenties and the thirties under pressure from the Yugoslav Communist Party and the Communist International. The BCP adopted the view that the Bulgarians in Macedonia had formed a separate "Macedonian nation" and "Macedonian people." During World War II Stalin, too, pressed the BCP to subscribe to this idea. At the beginning of 1944, acting on political considerations the BCP

accepted the Yugoslav model of a Macedonian settlement, according to which the problem was neither Bulgarian nor Balkan-wide, but strictly Yugoslav. After the war the problem was to be settled within the framework of a Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia, and the People's Republic of Macedonia was to incorporate all three parts of Macedonia. The author of the article recalls that the BCP and Georgi Dimitrov himself promoted the idea of a south Slavonic federation.

After 1944, however, when work began on the creation of the federation, Yugoslavia tried to put Bulgaria at a disadvantage and revived the old Pan-Serbian policy. For the sake of the "national reunification" of the "Macedonian people" it sought to annex the Pirin area. the Bulgarians in Vardar Macedonia were subjected to denationalization and assimilation.

Immediately after September 9, 1944, Svetozar Vukmanovic-Tempo and Lazar Kolisevski arrived in Sofia and issued an ultimatum to the CC [Central Committee] of the BCP. Their demands for the "Macedonians' reunification" were turned down and they tried to achieve it by their own means in the town of Gorna Djoumaya (today's Blagoevgrad). They masterminded the formation of a Yane Sandanski brigade which was to spearhead the armed struggle for reunification. The result was a diarchy in the Pirin area. Bulgaria's national independence and state sovereignty were seriously jeopardized.

Dimitrov strongly protested the move to Tito.

For all that, on November 2, 1944, the CC of the BCP recognized that the Pirin area was "Macedonian" and obliged the Bulgarian authorities to work for the "ethnic awakening" of the population. The BCP leadership asserted that the Pirin area was to be incorporated into the People's Republic of Macedonia only within a south Slavonic federation and opposed Skopje's allegations that the population was part of a "Macedonian nation."

Tito tried to use Stalin's support for a favourable settlement. At a meeting in Moscow on February 7, 1946, between Dimitrov, Stalin and Tito the Bulgarian leadership was ordered to grant cultural autonomy to the Pirin area. At its 10th Plenum on August 9 and 10, 1946, the CC of the BCP did proclaim such autonomy. The Communists were obliged to work for the Macedonization of the population in the Pirin area. The decisions of the plenum were not made public.

A campaign was started, however, to translate them into reality: the Bulgarian people's cultural and the historical past was grossly distorted, Skopje newspapers and literature were circulated by force. Skopje provided scholarships for high-school and university studies in the People's Republic of Yugoslavia. Yugoslavia kept on its propaganda on the annexation of the Pirin area. The Yugoslav newspapers BORBA and POLITIKA urged for the draft of Bulgaria's new constitution to provide for a "cultural and national autonomy of the Pirin area."

Dimitrov lodged another protest. The Bulgarian population in the Pirin area resisted the annexation. Top BCP leaders such as Vladimir Poptomov and Dimitur Ganev also opposed the move, calling that part of the country "incontestable Bulgarian land." Still, when a population census was taken in December 1946, the BCP and the Fatherland Front formally called on the people there to list themselves as "Macedonian." The results were rigged to meet the "quotas" determined from above. These doctored statistics are still the only "argument" of the Yugoslav policy.

The BCP made further concessions at the talks in Bled (July 30-August 1, 1947). Georgi Dimitrov agreed to the introduction of "Macedonian language" and "Macedonian history" as compulsory subjects in the schools in the Pirin area, and he agreed to the opening of "Macedonian bookshops."

The population resisted. Schoolchildren boycotted the classes and went on strike against the Skopje teachers. The Skopje leaders nevertheless pressed for annexation.

The 16th Plenum of the CC of the BCP and the 5th BCP Congress (1948) rejected Yugoslavia's "reunification" slogan and condemned the BCP's uncritical confidence in Macedonian policy. The March 1963 Plenum of the CC of the BCP declared itself resolutely against the Yugoslav falsifications of Bulgarian history and culture and denied the need of establishing a south Slavonic federation. The plenum said that any demand on the part of Yugoslavia amounted to an interference in Bulgaria's internal affairs. The BCP accepted the existence of a People's Republic of Macedonia within the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia as a historical reality. It pointed out that a "Macedonian nation" was formed in Vardar Macedonia on an anti-Bulgarian basis.

Winding up his article, the author writes that "the efforts of Skopje and Belgrade to re-raise the matter are now as unfounded as ever. All that merely damages Bulgaro-Yugoslav relations and the political climate in the Balkans."

'Nikola Petkov' BZNS Paper Resumes Publishing

AU2802132990 Sofia BTA in English
1138 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Sofia, February 28 (BTA)—Yesterday, after a 43-year-long interval, NARODNO ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME (People's Agrarian Banner) the paper of the opposition Nikola Petkov Bulgarian Agrarian Party, came out again. The paper was suppressed in 1947 after the party was banned.

The paper announces that it will carry on the traditions of the agrarian press bequeathed by Aleksandur Stamboliyski, the leader of the agrarian movement. It will be the tribune of agrarian unity, of truth and freedom proclaimed by its editor-in-chief Nikola Petkov who was sentenced to death and hanged in 1947.

The new weekly writes about the period when the Nikola Petkov Bulgarian Agrarian Party was banned, states views on the agrarian unity and the position of the opposition party on the present political and economic situation in the country.

NARODNO ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME is the third opposition paper in the country.

The publication of EKOPOLITIKA (Ecopolicy), the weekly paper of the opposition Green Party, is also forthcoming.

Republican Nonparty Members Front Established

AU2802165990 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 27 Feb 90 p 6

[Text] The Republican Front of Nonparty Members [Republikanski Front the Bezpartiynite]—is the name of the newly established independent national organization whose central leadership is located in Blagoevgrad and which aims at uniting the nonparty member Bulgarian citizens in the struggle to remove the totalitarian system by legal and constitutional means and advance toward a democratic and free state structure.

Council Abolishes Material Economy Committee

AU2802152890 Sofia TRUD in Bulgarian 27 Feb 90 p 2

[Excerpt] Issue No. 17 of DURZHAVEN VESTNIK dated 27 February 1990 contains a State Council Decree that abolishes the Committee for Material Economy under the Council of Ministers and creates a Committee for Forests and Forest Industry under the Council of Ministers, whose functions and tasks will be determined later. [passage omitted]

New Youth Organization Declaration

AU2802145290

[Editorial Report] Sofia NARODNA MLADEZH in Bulgarian on 27 February on page 3 carries a 3,000-word "Program Declaration of the Bulgarian Democratic Youth," adopted by the Constituent Congress of the Bulgarian Democratic Youth.

The declaration consists of a general preamble and seven additional parts. The preamble points out the evils of the totalitarian system and asserts that "the new and vital youth forces reject the ideological, political, and economic myths of yesterday." The new organization "categorically rejects the totalitarian essence of the Dimitrov Komsomol," and asserts that it will be guided by "universal values," "democracy," and "socialist ideas."

The first part, entitled "We and the State," describes the organization's attitude toward the state. It expresses support for the "law-governed state" and an independent National Assembly, and stresses that "the new youth organization categorically disassociates itself from the state."

The second part, entitled "We and the Other Political and Civic Formations," stresses the organization's readiness to cooperate with other political and civic organizations and asserts that "we will construct our relations with the political parties and sociopolitical organizations on the basis of equality and organizational independence."

The third part, entitled "Our Views on Economic Reform," expresses general support of an economic reform, without outlining any elements of such a reform, other than "market regulation of economy," "limiting the state monopoly of economic life," and "developing the personal initiative of young people."

The fourth part, entitled "We and the Ecological Problems," outlines the organization's adherence to environmental protection.

The fifth part is entitled "What Social Policy We Demand." It contains various demands that, according to the new youth organization, "would give every young man equal possibility for a good start in life." The demands include: "maternity paid vacation for three years;" "tax alleviations for young families;" "eliminating the system of city citizenship;" "social protection of women;" and adopting measures against children's and youth crime, prostitution, and drug abuse.

The sixth part is entitled "Our Aspirations in the Intellectual Sphere." It stresses "developing relations with world culture," "disseminating Bulgarian culture throughout the world," and "restoring national values and traditions." Demands are expressed "to base the educational system on universal values and the achievements of modern knowledge," and "working out new and democratic laws on education and the status of students."

The final part is entitled "Our Organization." It contains general provisions on the character of the Bulgarian Democratic Youth. It is pointed out that "membership in the new organization is not mandatory," "centralism is relinquished," and the members enjoy equal rights and freedoms.

Agriculture Commission Views Production Plans

AU2702221590 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] At its session in Sofia today, the Permanent National Assembly Commission on Agriculture and Forestry discussed the draft plans for these branches for 1990.

It was stressed that, in conformity with the requirements relating to utilizing the new economic regulators, it is envisioned that grain production for animal feed will rise

by 13 percent, tomato production by 27 percent, and fruit production by 18 percent. There will also be increases in the production output of the woodworking, furniture, and pulp and paper industries.

At the same time, because of the shortages of raw materials, last year's levels of production are not being reached for a number of products. The National Assembly deputies recommended that reserves should be sought to increase the volume of production that is insufficient.

Special attention was paid to the need of increasing the purchase prices for certain agricultural products, of introducing a unified system for taxing the incomes of leaseholders, pieceworkers, and private farmers. The aim is to bring agriculture out of its present crisis and to make it function according to the principles of the market-based economy.

The commission also decided to support the National Movement for Revival of the Bulgarian Countryside.

The commission will continue its work tomorrow.

Ministries, Department Staffing Reduced

AU0503093190 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 27 Feb 90 p 6

[Unattributed Report: "Personnel Cuts"]

[Text] The personnel of the central administrations of nine ministries and 11 departments, (including the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the Agricultural Academy, and the Central Statistical Administration), will be reduced from 5,015 to 3,556 employees. However, these figures are not final. The amount of personnel in the ministries that are being reorganized now—The Ministry of Economy and Planning, the Ministry of Industry and Technology, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Trade and Services, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Ministry of Construction, Architecture, and Amenities—will also be determined by 1 April 1990, when the cuts will be effected.

The total scope of the cuts will reach 25 percent. This will reduce the budget deficit to a certain degree, at least in anything related to management expenditures.

Figures on New BCP Members Noted

AU0503084590 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 26 Feb 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Over 4,000 New Communists"]

[Text] The number of Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] members amounts to approximately 984,000 today. Within the period between 10 November 1989 and the 14th BCP Extraordinary Congress, 4,330 new members joined the party, while 712 members quit over the same period. These figures categorically refute the rumors about an alleged decrease of BCP members, particularly following the disbanding of party organizations in the ministries of national defense and internal affairs. The establishment of new basic party organizations in places of residence is evidently proceeding under conditions of excellent organization and discipline.

The spirit of democracy established following the 10 November 1989 events and confirmed by the 14th BCP Congress continues to exert its influence. The new BCP Statute eliminated the bureaucratic barriers that complicated the conditions of admitting new party members. The following figures are speaking most eloquently for the results: Only 247 party members have quit within the period between the congress and mid-February, while 1,100 new BCP members have joined the party. Numerous new applications for party membership are being currently filed.

Defense Ministry Newspaper Changes Masthead

AU2103091190

[Editorial Report] Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian on 20 March carries a new masthead. The typeface of the newspaper's name has been changed, the three medals have been removed from the front page, and the caption "Organ of the Ministry of National Defense," has been changed to "Publication of the Ministry of National Defense." NARODNA ARMIYA was the last of Sofia's major dailies to introduce such changes.

Havel Arrives in UK, Hails Success in France

LD2103162590 Prague CTK in English 1500 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] London March 21 (CTK Correspondent)—President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia arrived here today, following his two-day visit to France.

Reviewing his visit to France aboard the plane on his way here, Vaclav Havel said he believed the visit had been successful. He said he had reached unusual accord in talks with President Francois Mitterrand, Premier Michel Rocard and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. This applies to bilateral relations where "we have received generous offers which we did not even expect," President Havel said.

He went on to point out that the two sides were agreed as regards the concept of Europe's future arrangement, and added that he regarded this as the main success.

Upon arrival, the Czechoslovak president met with House of Commons Speaker Bernard Weatherill for talks on cooperation between Britain and Czechoslovakia. Later on President Havel attended an informal dinner given by Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace.

Meets With Queen, Thatcher

LD2103215590 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1730 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel today began his three-day official visit to Great Britain.

A special plane with President Vaclav Havel on board landed at Heathrow airport, east [as heard] of London, shortly after 10 AM.

The head of the Czechoslovak state was welcomed in a short but dignified ceremony by Baroness Blatch on behalf of the queeen and by William Waldergrave, minister of state for foreign affairs, on behalf of the UK Government.

Vaclav Havel is the first Czechoslovak president since President Dr. Benes to, in his own words, visit all of the four superpowers which guarantee the postwar configuration of Europe, including the division of Germany. At the same time he is today a guest in the country which he, in his own words, considers to be one of three cradles of democracy. [passage omitted]

Vaclav Havel had an informal lunch with Queen Elizabeth II, which was also attended by 12 leading figures of UK political and cultural life, including Harold Pinter, personal friend of Vaclav Havel and world-renowned British playwright.

At 4 PM local time—that is, at 5 PM Central European time, Vaclav Havel arrived at the seat of the UK prime ministers—No. 10 Downing Street. He was welcomed there by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. [passage omitted]

Talks between our president and Mrs. Thatcher are continuing at this moment. During these talks great attention will undoubtedly be paid to various principal questions of current developments in Europe, as well as mutual Czechoslovak-UK relations, which are going to improve quickly following the November events in our country. It is also expected that they will discuss the unification of Germany and problems of the developments in other countries in Central and East Europe. [passage omitted]

Overview of Havel-Thatcher Talks

LD2103220590 Prague CTK in English 2017 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] London March 21 (CTK)—Visiting Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel held talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher today, which lasted nearly one hour and a half.

At a brief meeting with the press, Mrs Thatcher said she was pleased to be able to welcome the Czechoslovak president in Britain. She said Britain has been following his remarkable speeches as president and his efforts in building democracy in Czechoslovakia and in shaping market economy. The prime minister said their talks dealt with problems of European security and the future arrangement in Europe.

President Havel said he was grateful for Margaret Thatcher's invitation to visit Britian and was glad to have had the opportunity to inform her of the situation in Czechoslovakia and discuss future European development. He said he was glad to have been able to compare Mrs Thatcher's and his views which, he said, were very close to one another.

Further Reportage

WA2203152290

For reportage on the visit by President Vaclav Havel to the United Kingdom, please see the United Kingdom section of the 22 March West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Belgian Foreign Minister Visits Prague

Expects Increased Trade

LD2103084190 Prague CTK in English 1338 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Prague March 19 (CTK)—Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens arrived here for a two-day official visit today.

Shortly after arrival the Belgian foreign minister met with his Czechoslovak counterpart Jiri Dienstbier. The

two countries' delegations stressed that bilateral cooperation is insufficient, especially in the economic sphere. The Belgian minister said that mutual trade should increase three times in the forthcoming five years.

Jiri Dienstbier underlined that Czechoslovakia has already done a number of steps to normalize relations with Belgium and spoke about Czechoslovakia's interest in the expansion of bilateral cooperation and education of experts for the business sphere. Mark Eyskens pointed out that Belgium will take certain steps in the visa sphere with the aim to remove the visa duty for Czechoslovak citizens completely.

The guest underlined that it is necessary to quickly confirm the Oder-Niesse line and guarantee it internationally. He expressed the hope that the Soviet Union will agree with the integration of united Germany not only with the European communities but with NATO as well. Germany's membership of NATO should mean strengthening of stability.

Jiri Dienstbier said that Germany's neutrality would be the worst solution which could lead to the restoration of the Versailles complex. Unification of Germany should be the motive power for European unification, Jiri Dienstbier stressed and added that global solution must be found within the Helsinki process.

The Belgian foreign minister stressed that Czechoslovakia should be quickly included in European structures. [passage omitted]

Discussions With Dubcek, Calfa

LD2103084490 Prague CTK in English 1719 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Prague March 19 (CTK)—Chairman of the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly Alexander Dubcek received here today Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens.

The two representatives called for the intensification of the two countries' relations in all spheres, including the creation of conditions for Czechoslovakia's gradual joining broad cooperation with the European communities on the basis of the memorandum of the federal government.

During his meeting with Czechoslovak Prime Minister Marian Calfa, Mark Eyskens expressed the opinion that Czechoslovakia is able to succeed in the policy of reforms. Belgium and Czechoslovakia have much in common and before the war they were often ranked next to each other. That is why the talks between Marian Calfa and Mark Eyskens could concentrate on quite concrete experience and possibilities of cooperation.

Speaking about the scope for foreign investments, Marian Calfa said that the present legislation makes it possible to establish enterprises with 100 per cent foreign participation and sign agreements on tax allowances for the initial period.

The two representatives discussed the problem of social justice. In this connection, Mark Eyskens pointed to a double concept—equality of incomes and equality of opportunities.

Dienstbier Adviser Interviewed on Policy Concerns

LD2203114590 Prague CTK in English 0857 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Prague March 22 (CTK)—"If we want to make sovereign policy we must defend the vital interest of our state, even if we should complicate some illusory European solution" advisor to the Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jaroslav Sedivy has told the Czech weekly for culture, art, literature and policy TVORBA.

A concrete example of this policy is the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia, he said, adding that in this case it is not necessary to take into consideration either the Vienna discussions or anything else as their arrival in Czechoslovakia was an act of violence. The withdrawal of Soviet troops enables Czechoslovakia at the same time to realize its foreign policy as an independent state.

He commented on the unification of Germany, stressing that European security will be ensured after Germany becomes an integral part of higher structures of future integrated Europe. Democracy rooted firmly in the Federal Republic of Germany will be certainly transferred also to the country's eastern part. There exist some extremist phenomena in both parts of Germany but they are not significant, he said.

In Sedivy's opinion Czechoslovakia must have a certain security concept in the current situation, not only from the point of view of a kind of a catastrophic variant of Germany's development, but from the point of view of some other possible conflicts which could be caused by nationality problems, economic imbalances or which would have roots in the Third World, Sedivy said.

Czechoslovakia's security concept is still linked with the Warsaw Treaty but requires its revision and reorganization. The instability of some of its members could cause problems in the whole community. "We should intensify political consultations at the level of foreign ministers, strengthen the role of the national armies and suppress their subordination to the joint command", the adviser stressed.

Jaroslav Sedivy underlined the significance of a new agreement on trade and economic cooperation with the European Communities. He also appreciated Czechoslovakia's cooperation with the European Council and various regional initiatives. Czechoslovakia concentrates above all on the initiative of four Danubian states—Hungary, Austria, Italy and Yugoslavia—on Czechoslovak-Polish cooperation in Central Europe and regional projects in the north of Europe.

The adviser to the Czechoslovak foreign minister spoke also of the prepared normalization of relations of Czechoslovakia with Chile, the Republic of Korea, development of relations with Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. With regard to the internal political development in the South African Republic there could be also a positive shift in the relations between Czechoslovakia and South Africa, Sedivy said.

Foreign Ministry Urges Restraint in Romania

LD2103193890 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1730 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] The Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry has issued a statement on the ethnic unrest in Romania. It expresses the conviction that in today's Europe there should be no room for nationality conflicts. It describes them as a threat to the favorable development in the construction of a joint European home, as a potential source of tension in Central and East Europe, and as a deadly danger for democracy as a whole.

Our Foreign Ministry calls on the participating sides to end the manifestations of senseless enmity, not to create through their demands situations which are insoluble at present, to approach the needs of the other sides with tolerance, and to find a path toward mutual understanding and friendly coexistence.

ROK Minister To Sign Diplomatic Protocol

LD2003184990 Prague CTK in English 1710 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Prague March 20 (CTK)—Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea Choho-Chang arrived here today for a two-day official visit to Czechoslovakia.

The aim of his visit, which takes place at the invitation of Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier, is to sign a protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Czechoslovakia and the Republic of Korea.

Dubcek Regards S. Korea as Development Model

SK2203075090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0727 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 22 (YONHAP)—Alexander Dubcek, the resurrected leader of Czechoslovakia, said Wednesday that the establishment of diplomatic relations between South Korea and Czechoslovakia will give momentum to the development of bilateral relations, the Foreign Ministry here reported Thursday.

Czech-Korean relations will grow rapidly after the opening of diplomatic ties, Dubcek, chairman of the Federal Assembly, told Korean reporters covering an official visit by Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung in Prague. Choe and Czech Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier will sign a protocol on establishment of ambassadorial ties between Korea and Czechoslovakia on Thursday.

There will be no obstacles to the promotion of relations because both countries have high educational and cultural standards, the Czech leader said. Dubcek said he expected a lot of cooperation between Korea and his nation in the economic and sports fields.

Dubcek, who headed the "prague spring" democratic movement in 1968 as communist party leader, said his country has deep respect for Korea's democratization and economic development. He said his countrymen are endeavoring not to repeat 1968, when Russian tanks snuffed out their reforms, admitting that there are many problems in the course of the revolutionary changes now under way. Troops of the Soviet Union and four Warsaw Pact nations moved into Prague in August 1968 to smash the liberalization movement.

He said establishment of a multi-party system and private property are the major tasks to be achieved. Respect of human rights and improvement of relations with western democracies are also important problems, Dubcek said, adding that the Czech Assembly is busy legislating laws to help accomplish the tasks legally.

Commending Korea's democratization and economic development, Dubcek said Korea could be regarded as a development model for Czechoslovakia as it achieved an economic progress under difficult circumstances and in the process of democratization.

Havel Extends Recognition to Namibia

LD2103180290 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1730 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Czechoslovakia recognizes the Republic of Namibia as an independent and sovereign state and expresses its willingness to establish diplomatic relations with it. This was made clear in a message from President Vaclav Havel to Namibian President Sam Nujoma.

Minister of National Defense Miroslav Vacek is participating in the official celebrations of Namibia's independence.

Calfa Fields Questions on Radio Program

LD2103194490 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1710 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Question-answer session with Premier Marian Calfa by unidentified announcer on the "Civic Forum" program on 20 March—live or recorded; questions to Calfa in Czech; Calfa's replies in Slovak]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Calfa] We have contained the influx of tourists from Austria, and today the situation is stable. Concerning exports, there we have adopted quite strict measures and these measures are in operation. Today we have only one problem and this is of a more serious character. It is the buying-up of gasoline because the difference in the price is considerable and thus it pays off. We will resolve this in about a month with the introduction of vouchers at a cost that will bring

gasoline in line with the differences in the rate of exchange. This means that the price of gasoline for an Austrian tourist in Czechoslovakia will be compatible with the price he pays at home. I would like to say one thing, that the South Bohemian Regional National Committee has asked the Ministry of Trade to relax the restrictions on exports of some goods.

[Announcer] The vouchers, I mean for gasoline, will they be introduced for our citizens, too?

[Calfa] You see, if we introduce vouchers for foreign tourists, we have to introduce vouchers for all because it is not possible to regulate the sales at gasoline pumps if money is used for the sales, too. There will be three types of voucher: vouchers for purchases of gasoline by foreign tourists who pay in free currencies, vouchers for gasoline purchases by tourists from CEMA member-states, and the third type of voucher will be for our citizens, at the same price as at present. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] I have here questions concerning the federation. There are many of them, and people mostly asked about the hyphen between the words Czecho and Slovakia. How do you like the name Czecho-Slovak?

[Calfa] The name Czecho-Slovak Republic? Well, I would like to say that I believe that the name should be the Czechoslovak Republic—that is, one word, together. However, I understand the position of Slovaks and also the fact that in this word, in a certain way, the word Slovakia disappears somewhat, and they want to emphasize it by the separation with the hyphen. I also stress the fact that Czecho-Slovakia was used at the birth of our republic. This can be seen in a number of collections of laws, for example.

[Announcer] Do you think that this could be influenced by the federal government, I mean the official name, Czechoslovak Republic?

[Calfa] This is a matter for the Federal Assembly. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] We have here another question, could we not get back the Subcarpathian Ukraine, Mr. (Krbec) asks.

[Calfa] Naturally, this is a very complex issue, an issue that also concerns relations with the Soviet Union. I have to say that we have not been considering this matter yet; we have not been discussing in any way, and this claim has not been raised. At the moment, this is all I can say.

[Announcer] I think that this would not be historically wise because the area has never belonged to Slovakia historically. Here, I am not speaking about Czechoslovakia, but namely Slovakia; it was only attached to our state after World War I and it was not, in fact, a part of our state, but was only under its administration, if I am not mistaken. Do correct me if I am wrong, but I think this was the case. [passage omitted]

How will the possible unification of Germany effect the European economy and our economy, and what is the situation like with provision of tourist money for trips to East Germany. Apparently there is a shortage of East German marks. I have heard that there have even been some black market speculations with them, asks Mr (Fidler) from Prague.

[Calfa] The effect of both German states, and then of the unified Germany on our economy already is great because West Germany is our major trade partner among the advanced industrial states, and the GDR ranks second among our trade partners within CEMA. There is no doubt that when they merge economic relations will only multiply by the unification. We have discussed these matters with representatives of both German states. However, we do not think that there will be any disadvantage from this for us; we simply will have to transfer the economic cooperation on a qualitatively different level, but there is goodwill on both sides to preserve and even to deepen the level. This is one thing. Concerning the marks, this is a quite clear issue. The mass media have explained this sufficiently already. I blame the state bank for not stopping the sales of East German marks sooner because they have been bought up with speculative intentions in mind. I have to say that for this reason we have adopted several measures concerning the crossing of the border—that is, in customs services. There is one problem: Since the beginning of this year, the state bank has been independent from the government. This is the first proof of the fact that we cannot manage the banking sphere by directives because it now is simply autonomous. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] I have here, for example, a question: Why are the former members of the State Security still being paid for sitting at home when it would be possible to fire them, according to the Labor Code, with a two-month notice, asks Mrs (Kopecka), from Hradec Kralove, and there are dozens of similar questions.

[Calfa] The view is incorrect because the Labor Code does not apply to them; there are special regulations on the terms of service for National Security Corps members. These regulations are, in fact, a law passed by the Federal Assembly and do not allow such action. This is the first point. The second point is that we have decided for the entire National Security Corps to be checked, and if members should be released from their employment in the service, then it would be impossible to insure these checks legally because they would no longer be members of the Corps. The third point is that we also are considering a step that would in some way—globally—cancel the service employment of a member. This would have to be done via an amendment of the law, and work is presently in progress on such a law, but I have to say—as I have mentioned already—that we would like to check on members while in service employment. Thus the views on this have not yet been clarified and no clear decision or approach exists. [passage omitted]

[Calfa] I naturally cannot answer such a specific question. I would have to check what the facts are. However, I would like to say one thing: Czechoslovakia has not stopped being a sovereign state, a republic; it has not stopped having a functioning state mechanism; and a functioning security apparatus is only a part of the state mechanism. Every state has this and our state will have it, too. However, the issue is—on what principles it is functioning and under what control is it? If it is necessary to check contents of packages arriving in Czechoslovakia from abroad—let us say, for example, to prevent drug smuggling, the smuggling of explosives or pornography, if its import to Czechoslovakia is banned, then naturally, our security will intervene. [Musical interval] [passage omitted includes question on return of nationalized enterprises to their original owners free of charge—Calfa says not free of charge. Another questioner asks about the return of property confiscated from those who left the country—Calfa says it is a complicated issue and will be dealt with later. Questions concerning the Temelin power station are asked—Calfa confirms that the first two sets will be built.]

Calfa Sees Finland as Positive Example

AU2103131890

[Editorial Report] Prague MLADA FRONTA in Czech on 19 March on pages 1, 3 carries a 750-word interview with Premier Marian Calfa by MLADA FRONTA correspondent Jaroslav Havlicek. The interview, which is entitled "Student Enterprises Also in Czechoslovakia?," was conducted in Helsinki on 17 March. Prague LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE in Czech on 19 March on page 2, under the headline "A Free Moment With the Premier," carries a 450-word interview with Marian Calfa by Veronika Hokeova, conducted during Calfa's visit to the Finnish university town of Oulu on 17 March. Both interviews deal with Calfa's impressions of Finland and the premier expresses in them his admiration for the Finns' healthy diet, their architecture, design, standard of shopping, and lifestyle in general. As he states in the MLADA FRONTA interview, "in my opinion, Finland is the prototype of a modern and successful country that keeps abreast of world developments, has resolved a number of social problems, technological needs, and environmental problems, all of which are things which we, too, will have to tackle." Therefore, and because of the two countries' similar size, Calfa believes that "we can learn from the Finns." Calfa expresses particular "enthusiasm" for "Technopolis," the seat of a number of small high-tech firms which apply the research results of nearby Oulu University, most of which are run by students themselves, or by their professors. He suggests that a similar technology center, based on the Finnish model, be set up in Czechoslovakia. In Calfa's opinion, this center should specialize in agricultural research and technology (for which the climate near Oulu is too rough) and exchange its research results with Technopolis.

Calfa Advocates Price Reform, Government Daily

AU2203093990 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 20 Mar 90 p 1

[Dalibor Macha report: "The Government Is No Monolith"]

[Excerpts] Prague (from our correspondent)— Premier Marian Calfa met with distinguished Czechoslovak figures in Prague's Intercontinental Hotel before the television cameras 19 March to jointly review the government's just concluded first 100 days. [passage omitted]

Calfa said about his government: "It is no monolith. The exchange of opinions in the government is taking place continuously, sometimes assuming a sharp tone, but I believe that this is good."

He mentioned—and our citizens are particularly interested in this—the need to modify some prices. He cited as an example all kinds of public transportation fares, since freight transportation, the volume of which is decreasing, has until now been making up financially for public transportation. In real terms, the inexpensive public transportation fares are at the 1945 level. From his assessment it follows that it is not possible to continue along the path of subsidies any longer. This applies to the rents in state-owned apartments, certain kinds of food, and the prices for all types of energy. Understandably, appropriate compensations will be connected with this —not only in the social sphere, but also in services.

He also mentioned that we cannot avoid structural and local unemployment.

Replying to a question of CTK Central Director Petr Uhl concerning the communications media, M. Calfa confirmed the need to found a government daily. He said that some dailies have a tint of sensationalism, but democracy means, above all, respectability.

Asked whether there is a danger that after the June elections the government will be formed according to some political key rather than expertise, he also expressed his view regarding the character of the future government. According to him, the government should be composed of specialists and petty politics should be avoided. [passage omitted]

Slovak National Council Session Reviewed

AU2103152490 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 17 Mar 90 pp 1, 2

[Antonia Vymazlova and Frantisek Melis report: "...and Now Civilly Toward the Elections"]

[Text] Bratislava (from our parliamentary correspondents)—One hundred and thirty-nine of the 150 Slovak National Council [SNR] deputies participated in yesterday's session. The Slovak parliament discussed the draft SNR law on elections to the SNR and other issues. Milan Cic, Slovak premier, was present.

The SNR Presidium met prior to the session. It listened to a report on the situation in the Leopoldov corrective education establishment, it discussed a report on the measures adopted by the Federal government and the Slovak Republic Government for dealing with the economic consequences of tourism, it discussed a proposal to release SNR deputies from employment in order that they may work full time as deputies, and—in connection with the outcome of a public discussion on the draft SNR law on elections to the SNR—it thanked those citizens and organizations which, through their comments and suggestions, have contributed to drawing up the draft of this legal amendment.

New Words for the Oath

The SNR discussions were chaired in turn by the council's deputy chairpersons, Gabor Zaszlos (Public Against Violence [VPN]) and Janka Blazejova (without political affiliation). At the beginning of the session, 13 deputies put questions to the government members who were present. These questions concerned, in particular, the environment, nonadherence to the timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops, cadre work in education, and the principles of the personnel policy approved by the Slovak Republic Government and made public by speakers at a VPN meeting held in Bratislava on 6 March.

Deputy Boris Zala (Social Democratic Party) outlined the proposal put forward by a group of SNR deputies for a SNR constitutional law on the number of its deputies, on the wording of an oath for deputies in national committees and the SNR and for Slovak Republic Government members, and on the SNR term of office. The deputies approved a 150-member arrangement and a 24-month term of office for the SNR elected in this year's elections. SNR and national committee deputies will take the following oath: "I promise on my honor and conscience that I will be faithful to the Slovak Republic, to the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, and to the principle of democracy and humanism. I will fulfill my duties according to the people's will and in the people's interest. I will be guided by the constitutional and other laws of the Slovak Republic and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and I will endeavor to ensure that they are fully applied."

In view of the considerable number of comments made in talks conducted by individual SNR committees on the government proposal for an SNR law on establishing a Slovak Environment Commission, this subject was adjourned until the 24th SNR session to be held on 30 March. Jan Budaj (VPN), SNR first deputy chairman, outlined the conditions for drafting and discussing this proposal.

A Three-Percent Clause

Deputy Gabor Zaszlos introduced the proposal put forward by a group of deputies for an SNR law on elections. Elections to the SNR and CSSR Federal Assembly will take place on 8 and 9 June. Four electoral regions will be established in the Slovak Republic in harmony with its territorial arrangement. Each political party that submits a list of candidates will delegate two members and two substitutes to the Slovak Election Commission at least 60 days before the elections. Political parties will submit candidate lists—in duplicate—for individual electoral regions at least 60 days before the elections. By drawing lots, the Slovak Electoral Commission will determine the number indicating each political party's candidate list. It will be possible to publish the results of pre-election public opinion polls seven days, at the very latest, before election day.

After a report on this subject, delivered by Jan Bakic (VPN), chairman of the SNR Constitutional and Legal affairs Committee, the deputies voted on two alternatives for the participation of political parties at the first count. They adopted a principle that when mandates are being allocated in the first count, those political parties that gain at least three percent of the votes will also be taken into consideration. The deputies then approved the law on elections.

Replies to Questions

Slovak Premier Milan Cic and individual government members replied to some questions put by deputies at the beginning of the session. They will receive an answer to unanswered questions at the next SNR session which will discuss a report on the state of Slovakia's economy. In connection with the principles of the personnel policy (we published them on 14 March), Milan Cic emphasized that they have only a recommendatory character and are not a legal norm. He also said that the chronological timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops should be controlled by the federal government.

After a wide-ranging discussion on the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia's [CPCZ] property, the plenum recommended to the SNR Presidium that it set up a commission to look into the acquisition of property by all political parties and movements from 1948 to the beginning of the election campaign. The composition of this commission will be approved by the next SNR session.

Vladimir Meciar, Slovak Republic minister of the interior and living environment, reacted to issues raised by deputy Jozef Trepac (CPCZ) in connection with his appearance at a VPN meeting in Bratislava. Among other things, he said: "The growth of the crime rate in Slovakia is ominous. A number of measures will be adopted to halt this development. As far as my statements about the sufficient number of free places in prisons for those who have stolen, abused their position, and impoverished this nation are concerned, we can remain on a philosophical level about whether it is suitable or not to utter such words. I know these are very harsh words and, at a time when the country needs unity, they have created a very poor impression, particularly on intellectuals and on some other people. I will take the

responsibility for ensuring that every suspicion of criminal activity will be properly investigated."

Jan Budaj considered his speech at the above-mentioned meeting to be one of the methods for openly referring to the existence of a considerable number of CPCZ members who cannot reconcile themselves to the development of the social situation in our country.

Deputy Peter Weiss (CPCZ) reacted in a political discussion to speeches made by deputies who addressed their remarks to the Communist Party.

After the SNR session had come to an end, its Presidium held a meeting and declared the validity of both approved laws. It also determined that the elections to the SNR will be held on 8 and 9 June 1990.

General Details Arms Production Phase-out

AU2103153690

[Editorial Report] Several Czechoslovak newspapers of 15 March publish correspondents' reports on a news conference with Lieutenant General Jaroslav Kovacik, "representative of the Federal Ministry of Metallurgy, Engineering, and Electrical Engineering for questions of special technology," held in Prague on 14 March and dealing with the conversion of the Czechoslovak arms industry to civilian production programs.

Bratislava ROLNICKE NOVINY in Slovak on 15 March on page 2 carries a 250-word "am"-signed report on the news conference, entitled "End to the Production of Tanks," which quotes Kovacik on the timetable of Czechoslovakia's withdrawal from arms production. The report states that the Czechoslovak arms industry will not produce any more tanks after the end of this year and that the production of armored personnel vehicles "will most likely end with similar speed" even though originally their production was to be phased out by 1993. The production of "rocket technology" will also be completely halted in Czechoslovakia. The ROLNICKE NOVINY report quotes Kovacik as saying that the changes in the arms industry will affect "between 200,000 and 250,000 employees, 60 percent of them in Slovakia."

Prague MLADA FRONTA in Czech on 15 March on page 2 carries a 700- word Josef Tucek report entitled "Tractors Preferred to Tanks." The MLADA FRONTA report quotes Kovacik's statements on the development of arms production in Czechoslovakia and its profitability. According to the MLADA FRONTA report, arms production in Czechoslovakia culminated in 1988 when it accounted for 8.3 percent of the total output of enterprises administered by the Federal Ministry of Metallurgy, Engineering, and Electrotechnical Industry or 2 percent of Czechoslovakia's national product. Profits from this production are said to have been "double those of comparable civilian enterprises" and about 75 percent of the industry's output is said to have been exported. According to a government decision, the current production volume will be cut to roughly one-fourth by the year 1993. The MLADA FRONTA report also mentions that the cancellation of contracts for military supplies and the resulting need to transfer manpower to lesser paying jobs has created unrest in some enterprises, such as the Dubnica Heavy Engineering Works where "2,000 employees staged a two-hour strike" or Meopta Prerov where "turmoil is mounting."

Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak on 15 March on pages 1 and 2 carries an 800-word undated interview with Jaroslav Kovacik, entitled "The State Will Provide Assistance Where Inevitable." In the interview, Kovacik focuses on the impact of the government's conversion program on individual enterprises. As Kovacik points out, enterprises manufacturing military technology had known about the need to reduce their output since 1988, even though the original plans had not been as "radical" as the present scheme. In spite of this, Kovacik continues, the ministry's scheme foresees that 98 of the 111 enterprises affected by the conversion program "will have to come to terms with the change in their production program without the participation of the state." According to Kovacik, the state will assist only the following 13 enterprises—ZTS (Heavy Engineering Works) Martin, ZVL (Ball Bearing Plant) Povazska Bystrica, ZVS (General Engineering Works) Brno, Vihorlat Snina, Brezno Bridge-Building Works, Uhersky Brod Moravian-Slovak Engineering Works, Aero Prague, Tesla Liptovsky Hradok, ZVT (Computer Technology Works) Banska Bystrica, Palmagneton Kromeriz, Tesla Roznov, and Vlasim Engineering Works—which are expected to lose about 50 billion korunas in profits on account of the production change. Under the ministry's scheme, these enterprises should receive from central funds a total of eight billion korunas over the next four years. The Bratislava PRAVDA item also mentions that enterprises administered by the Federal Ministry of Metallurgy, Engineering, and Electrotechnical Industry account for 95 percent of Czechoslovakia's total production of arms technology.

Communist Countries' Laborers Returning Home

AU2103143990 Bratislava VEREJNOST in Slovak 13 Mar 90 p 8

[Vlado Turkovic article: "On Comrades 'Guest Laborers'"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] At present, more than 45,000 foreign laborers work in Czechoslovakia. Specifically, there are 33,000 Vietnamese, 6,000 Cubans, 4,900 Poles, 800 Hungarians, 300 Mongolians, and 200 Angolans. Their stay has received its blessing from intergovernmental agreements concluded in the old days. However, a change can be sensed in the air; the new political situation shuffles the cards. Thus, for instance, 209 Korean workers (i.e. all those employed in Slovakia) took their holiday at the end of the year and not one of them returned after the holiday.... Comrade Kim Il-song,

no doubt, is scared of the seed of revolution. Certainly, he had the opportunity to view the pictures from the trial of his friend Ceausescu and that would cause some concern on his part.... Similarly, the vegetarian Fidel —if we take his claim that he would rather eat grass in Cuba than give up socialism—takes a new attitude toward his "children" staying in our territory. One can hear samba from the dormitories of our enterprises less often (Cubans are better dancers than workers) for "our Cuban friends" are, on Fidel's instructions, also packing their suitcases and getting ready for the departure for "the island of liberty." At least, at the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, I was shown a flowchart of the permanent departures of Cubans. The last one of the 880 Cubans still remaining in Slovakia today should board the Prague-Havana plane before the end of the year. [passage omitted]

The problem of Vietnamese in our country is more complex than it seems at first glance. Vietnamese General Consul in Bratislava Tran Hong Hai stirred his coffee and told me through an interpreter:

[Tran Hong Hai]" Our government does not fear a revolutionary infection from your country. We are, in addition to the cooperation with socialist countries, opening our country to Western capital. I believe that Czechoslovakia has the opportunity to penetrate the Southeast Asian market through Vietnam. Vietnam could be for you a take-off platform for this area."

That is true, and only a short-sighted politician would burn his bridges to Vietnamese cooperation. [passage omitted]

Until 1989, expenses connected with the stay of foreign workers were covered by the state. Since last year however, employers were forced to pick up the tab. A great head-scratching ensued—a logical calculation with ambiguous results. For instance, the primary expenses for the stay of one Vietnamese cost us 21,000 korunas. Add to that 2,400 korunas clothing allowance, the cost of a language course, dormitory accommodation, flight tickets (one Hanoi-Prague ticket is 5,040 korunas), etc. [passage omitted]

Some employers are obviously disposing of the Vietnamese, while others, let us be frank, are interested in them for their diligence and modesty. It is, however, a phenomenon which requires being dealt with politically as soon as possible. Dr. Stefan Karabin, the section director of the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, addressed recently in the press the question of whether the work of foreign laborers is inexpedient for us. He said that it is precisely the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs which will attempt to decrease their number in the future. In other words, while we employ 45,000 foreign laborers today, there should be only 11,000 to 15,000 of these "guest laborers" in 1994. [passage omitted]

Commentary Analyzes Pace of Price Reform

AU2103143290 Prague MLADA FRONTA in Czech 19 Mar 90 p 2

[Jiri Leschtina commentary: "Are We Going to Start Cutting Braids?"]

[Excerpts] Time is inexorable! Today exactly 100 days will have passed since the moment when the Government of National Understanding started to exercise control over this country, the magical 100 days during which in most countries governments enjoy protection [from criticism]. [passage omitted] What did these 100 days of tolerance look like?

When China decided to open itself up to the Western world in the late 19th century, it started its "100 days of reforms" with a very radical and unpopular measure—the cutting of braids, which the Chinese had until then considered unassailable. In the past decades, our enterprises considered hefty state subsidies to be just as unassailable. Minister Klaus has mercilessly cut some of them off to create the first budget surplus in our history. Another signal indicating that the government is serious about a consistent transition to a functioning market of the Western type has been the partial externalization of the exchange rate of our koruna. [passage omitted]

However, as days go by, the key questions of reform—doing away with the subsidization of retail prices, increasing the prices of some foodstuffs and other goods and compensating the socially weaker strata for it, and liberalizing prices step by step—is increasingly coming to the forefront. As V. Klaus stressed at the Saturday seminar [for factory directors in Brno], the question of doing away with the negative turnover tax is today exclusively a political decision. It seems, however, that—not only in the government, but in other political circles as well—there is a lack of courage to take such steps. Thus we see that while some government officials speak in quite vague terms about price adjustments taking place at some point in the course of the year, Deputy Premier Dlouhy, addressing the Brno seminar, speaks in the category of months, say nothing of weeks. In February, Minister Klaus went even further when he declared in HOSPODARSKE NOVINY that if we do not do away with the negative turnover tax, he will probably be forced to resign from the post of minister of finance.

Why is it, however, that consistent reform economists recommending that harsh and unpopular measures—measures which are the essential condition for the success of the reform—be taken as soon as possible, are still in the minority? It is apparent that a steadily increasing number of officials seeking to build up their political image would like to avoid unpopular steps that might, in the upcoming turbulent period, make them unpopular with a section of public opinion. Incidentally, the remark made by V. Dlouhy at the end of the seminar to the effect that he had personally consulted with the president as to

what the two ministers [he and Klaus] would discuss in Brno bears out how closely economics and politics are intertwined at present.

I am convinced that, precisely at this time, we must liberate our truly competent economists from the need to pay heed to any political considerations and give them the full powers they need to introduce, free of any disturbing influences, reforms leading to the path of the market economy, which is the path for which the overwhelming majority of our public has opted. Despite certain "diplomatic" courtesy, Minister Klaus and Deputy Premier Dlouhy made it absolutely clear on Saturday that they are determined to take up the unpopular "cutting of braids." If this means that the expert has come to prevail over the advocate of political popularity in the government members' way of thinking, the magical 100 days were not wasted.

Federal Chambers Disagree on State Name, Emblem

LD2103000390 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 2030 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] The Constitutional Legal Committee of the Federal Assembly Chambers devoted itself in Prague today to the hyphen in the name Czecho-Slovakia, when they assessed the proposal of the president of the republic suggesting a change in the name of the state. The members of the committees did not agree on the name. However, they decided by vote that they agreed with the proposal of Vaclav Havel that the name is to be changed, but not to the Czecho-Slovak Republic.

The deputies also declined to approve the draft of the state emblem. They said that apart from the fact that they were still unsure of the the country's eventual name, they had also not seen the final graphic copies.

The situation is not pleasant. Should the proposals for the change in the name of the state and the new state symbols be discussed at the meeting of the Federal Assembly next week, it might happen that the Chambers will not come to an agreement. If a solution is not found at a session discussing the problem then a constitutional crisis and a consequent dissolution of parliament might take place.

Havel Addresses Charter-77 Congress

LD2103061190 Prague CTK in English 1832 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Prague March 18 (CTK)—"I used to have a dream when I was free but even more often in prison. It was the dream that all signatories of Charter 77 would meet to talk undisturbed by the police. This dream, this archetypal vision, is coming true today", Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel told participants in the first official congress of signatories to Charter 77 here today.

Charter 77, Eastern Europe's oldest human rights movement, was founded in 1977.

Jan Ruml, who presided over the morning session, pointed out in his speech that it is the first meeting of all Charter 77 signatories from January 1, 1977, till November 17, 1989. Now the Charter is facing a significant task—to prove that the oldest civic movement in Central Europe has not been welded together only in consequence of repressions but that it has its say also today, in the developing democratic society, he stressed.

Former Czechoslovak Foreign Minister, Professor Jiri Hajer, one of the first Charter 77 spokesmen, pointed out that the Charter has been contacting world peace movements and underlining the connection between the peace policy and the respect for human rights.

Philosopher Ladislav Hejdanek analyzed critically the current situation in the Charter 77. He stressed that in spite of its proclamation of January 1977, the Charter has always been an opposition platform to the totalitarian power. Since the very beginning there had been variety in opinions, and disputes have emerged especially recently. He said that the revolution after November 17 has been accompanied by compromises and insufficient energy. It lacks radical principles and the ability to get to the roots of problems, he said.

CTK Director General Petr Uhl pointed out that the first 241 Charter 77 signatories included 150 former Czechoslovak Communist Party members. Since the beginning the respect for human rights, democracy, tolerance, fairness and maintenance of joint consensus have been the common denominator of Charter 77, Petr Uhl underlined.

At the end of the congress, its participants approved a communique stressing that the Charter 77 signatories are determined to continue to strive for the respect for human rights in the new conditions gradually created by Czechoslovak society. Signatories to Charter 77 are convinced that the activities of the movement and other independent groups in democratic Czechoslovakia are necessary, the resolution stressed.

Human Rights Society Opens Prague Section

AU2103140390 Prague PRACE in Czech 19 Mar 90 p 1

[CTK report: "The Past and the Future"]

[Excerpt] Prague—The constituent assembly of the Czechoslovak section of the International Society for

Human Rights took place in Prague on 17 March; 25 delegates from throughout Bohemia and Moravia participated in the assembly. A number of political prisoners, who for many years were among this international organization's dependents, were also present.

Representatives from Charter 77, VONS [Committee for the Defense of the Unjustly Persecuted], the Czechoslovak Helsinki Committee, and the Social Defense Initiative participated in the proceedings. Dana Nemcova, member of the Federal Assembly Presidium, and Albert Cerny, a Federal Assembly deputy, were also present. [passage omitted]

Czech Greens Elect Chairman at First Congress

AU2103141290 Prague MLADA FRONTA in Czech 19 Mar 90 p 2

[CTK report: "Czech Congress"]

[Text] Plzen— The discussion of whether J. Jecminek, M.D., who is the chairman of the nationwide Green Party Council, can concurrently hold the position of chairman of the Czech Coordinating Committee took an entire hour at the 17 March Congress of the Green Party in Czech Lands, the first such congress held. In the end, Dr. Jecminek was elected by a landslide majority of delegates.

During the morning session, when the ideological political platform was on the agenda, the debates at the Plzen Trade Union's House of Culture were even longer.

Slovak Independence Movement Relocating

AU2103152990 Bratislava VECERNIK in Slovak 16 Mar 90 p 1

["(TL)"-signed report: "Slovakia for Slovaks"]

[Text] Yesterday, as a public meeting was being held, we acquainted you with the civic initiative Society for Social Justice in Slovakia. Today, under similar circumstances, we will acquaint you with the main aims of the National Council for the Liberation of Slovakia Movement. It was not established after 17 November, but much sooner; of course, it was established in exile. Its headquarters were in Munich, but it operated throughout Western Europe, Canada, the United States, and Australia. Its chairman is Mr. Frantisek Kollar, who lives in Munich. However, yesterday he traveled to Bratislava as the movement was preparing a public news conference for this evening.

It will take place at 1800 in the assembly hall of the House of Youth on 2 Karpatska Street. (Entry is gained through the YMCA building)

Lubomir Hudo, the host of today's meeting, provided us with more details about the movement's aims. During this important period, the National Council is mainly concerned about the future of the Slovak nation—that is, that Slovaks in Slovakia govern themselves, that they have their own democratic state, and that Slovakia is put on the map of Europe and the world. Now that the political climate makes it possible to move our headquarters from Munich to Bratislava and to strive for an independent Slovakia in Slovakia, the movement wants to register with the Slovak Republic Ministry of the Interior. Therefore, it wants to use today's meeting to collect the number of signatures necessary in compliance with the law on political parties, movements, and initiatives.

Formation of Unified Liberal Party Postponed

LD2203093490 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0206 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Berlin (ADN)—For the time being, there will not be a joint liberal party in the GDR. As ADN has learned from the party executive of the Liberal-Democratic Party (LDP) on Thursday morning [22 March], the chairmen of the German Forum Party (DFP) and the Free Democratic Party (FDP) told the LDP Presidium on Wednesday evening [21 March] that the leadership bodies of their parties do not consent at the moment to the proposal to form a joint liberal party. It has been agreed to prepare the unification of the three parties after the local elections [6 May]. [passage omitted]

CDU, DSU, DA Meet CDU, CSU Leaders

LD2103212290 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 2015 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Bonn (ADN)—Three days after the elections to the GDR People's Chamber, the leading representatives of the three conservative GDR parties—Lothar de Maiziere (Christian Democratic Union) [CDU], Hans-Wilhelm Ebeling (German Social Union) [DSU], and Rainer Eppelmann (Democratic Awakening) [DA]—met in Bonn this evening with Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Finance Minister Theo Waigel, chairmen of the CDU and the Christian Social Union [CSU]. Confidentiality has been agreed on for these talks at the chancellor's office, which are to last until late this evening.

Observers assume that Kohl will intervene in the coalition efforts for the formation of a government. Before the start of the meeting, CDU General Secretary Volker Ruehe urged a "maximum degree of agreement" between the partners that had won the elections as the "Alliance for Germany." Progress had to be made quickly. For that reason, they would discuss a declaration of principle on German unity and guidelines for the introduction of the market economy in the GDR. Ruehe said he assumed the DSU would not stick to its intention of refusing to enter into a parliamentary alliance with the Alliance partners. Ruehe described the GDR Social Democratic Party's refusal so far to enter into a future government coalition as a "blow to Germans."

CDU/CSU circles say that Kohl and Waigel are hoping for a clear statement by De Maiziere as to whether he would assume the office of prime minister. The FRG CDU assumed that as his party's leading candidate he would be the first to hold this office.

De Maiziere Leaves Premiership Candidacy Open

LD2203092590 Hamburg DPA in German 0858 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—The chairman of the GDR Christian Democratic Union [CDU] Lothar de Maiziere is leaving his candidacy for the office of premier wide open. De Maiziere told journalists in Bonn today that it all depends on the course of the coalition negotiations. Only when they are over will a governing team be agreed upon.

De Maiziere repeated the offer to the GDR-Socialist Democratic Party to participate in the government. The people in the GDR have hopes and expectations which must be fulfilled.

De Maiziere and the chairmen of the German Social Union, Hans-Wilhelm Ebeling, and of Democratic Awakening, Rainer Eppelmann, reported on the results of their talk yesterday evening with Federal Chancellor and CDU Chairman Helmut Kohl and Christian Social Union leader Theo Waigel. The intention of the Alliance partners to form a working team in the People's Chamber does not mean that one of the three parties will not particpate in the government.

In response to questions from journalists, De Maiziere rejected the accusation that he formerly collaborated with the state security service. As a lawyer he had contacts with the Stasi, as did any other lawyer.

Conservative 'Alliance' Not To Form Joint Group

LD2203100290 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0844 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Bonn (ADN)—The deputies of the conservative Alliance for Germany will not form a joint parliamentary group in the GDR People's Chamber. As emerges from a statement which Chairmen Lothar de Maiziere (CDU) [Christian Democratic Union], Rainer Eppelmann (Democratic Awakening), and Hans-Wilhelm Ebeling (DSU) [German Social Union] published after talks with Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl on Thursday in Bonn, the Alliance parties will cooperate in a working team of conservative deputies. In the statement, which was presented at the beginning of a press conference in the Bonn CDU headquarters, it says that the Alliance partners have decided to continue their "cooperation which has proven itself in the election campaign" in parliamentary and government work. The three party heads met with Kohl the evening before in the Bonn chancellor's office to discuss further action.

The text of the statement is as follows: The chairmen and general secretaries of the three parties united in the "Alliance for Germany" met on 21 March 1990 with the chairman of the Christian-Democratic Party of Germany, Federal Chancellor Dr. Helmut Kohl, and the chairman of the Christian-Social Union, Federal Minister Dr. Theo Waigel, in Bonn.

The chairmen of the parties united in the Alliance decided to continue in parliamentary and government work the cooperation proven in the election campaign, which led to the overwhelming election success, after the agreement on the formation of the Alliance of 5 February

1990, which was limited up to the election on 18 March 1990. [sentence as received]

For this reason, they decided on the formation of a working team of the deputies of the "Alliance for Germany" in the People's Chamber.

SPD To Offer Coalition Talks to CDU, DA

LD2203101190 Hamburg DPA in German 0924 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] East Berlin (DPA)—The GDR Social Democratic Party [SPD] intends to make an offer of coalition talks to the Christian Democratic Union [CDU] and the Democratic Awakening [DA], excluding the Christian Social Union sister party German Social Union [DSU].

The SPD People's Chamber party group agreed this today in East Berlin.

The decision has been taken "in the interests of the country," it was said on the sidelines of the meeting. The SPD party and parliamentary group leader, Ibrahim Boehme, is to explain the decision at a press conference at midday.

The party group had adjourned their discussions yesterday evening without reaching decision on the coalition question. The reason for this may have been, in particular, the intention to wait for the result of the discussion between the conservative Alliance for Germany of the CDU, DSU, and DA with Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Bonn.

After it became clear that these could not reach agreement on Kohl's demand for the formation of a joint People's Chamber party group, the SPD made its decision in favor of separate talks with the CDU and DA. Underlying this, clearly, is the intention to divide the Alliance on the coalition question. It is said that deputies of the DA are tending much more toward the SPD than toward the right-wing conservative DSU.

Democratic Peasants Party Wants New Constitution

LD2103125690 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1106 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—The DBD [Democratic Peasants' Party of Germany], in accordance with the party program, intends to continue to advocate the drafting of a new GDR constitution this year and the setting up of a referendum. DBD Chairman Guenther Maleuda made this clear today at a news conference in Berlin.

A joint German constitution could then develop on this basis. If, however, there were to be an annexation of the GDR under Article 23 of the Basic Law, then the DBD would work for a temporary protection of the internal market and adjusted structures, specialization, and new working methods in the cooperatives. In his view, the agricultural producer cooperative was nonnegotiable for the majority of Alliance voters also.

At yesterday's meeting, the party Presidium advocated active work in the opposition, Maleuda continued. To this end the party, with reference also to the local elections, must push its program more intensively than to date beyond its own ranks. This affected the southern Bezirke [areas] in particular.

The DBD gained some 251,000 votes (2.19 percent) in the People's Chamber elections.

SPD People's Chamber Group Meets 21 Mar

LD2103111190 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1014 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Berlin (ADN)—The People's Chamber party group of the social democratic party [SPD] met this morning for its constituent meeting in the Rosa Luxemburg Hall of the center for political meetings in Berlin's Koellnischer Park. The SPD is composed of 87 deputies.

There are 12 points on the agenda of the first SPD party group meeting to be held since the People's Chamber elections, at which the party gained 21.8 percent of the vote. In addition to questions of procedure and the election of the party group chairman, there will be a debate on preparations for the first people's chamber meeting. [passage omitted]

Boehme Elected Chairman

LD2203041290 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1723 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—Social Democratic Party [SPD] Chairman Ibrahim Boehme was elected chairman of the SPD People's Chamber group at the constituent parliamentary group session in Berlin today [21 March]. Seventy-five deputies voted for Boehme, one against, and five abstained.

PDS Election Results Viewed

AU2203094590 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 20 Mar 90 p 1

[Gerd Prokot commentary: "No Onlooker"]

[Text] For the 10th time in the history of the GDR a new People's Chamber has been elected. In contrast to the nine preceding "elections," this time it was elected freely for the first time. Since 15 October 1950 the unity list headed by the old Socialist Unity party of Germany, on which its bloc partner, the Christian Democratic Union of Germany, also had a comfortable place, had won landslide victories. As TRIBUENE stated, in October 1954 the result was the worst with 99.5 percent, in July 1967 it was the best with 99.93 percent. On 18 March 1990 the trade union newspaper shows democracy as the winner.

In view of this, all parties and associations, which will enter the new People's Chamber may call themselves winners. Without any foreign aid, the Party of Democratic Socialism [PDS] came out of the elections as the third strongest party with more than 16 percent. The PDS result deserves all the more respect, since like no other party this party was subjected to massive attacks, spite, and slander. "This evening things will be over for them," Western media incited the atmosphere on election day. The PDS will be "demoted to an insignificant political sect," Bonn politologists claimed; "five percent at best" were predicted for it. Some "advised" it not to run for the elections in the first place to avoid the disaster. First reactions show how profound the disappointment is. HANNOVERSCHE ALLGEMEINE complained that the PDS received "far too many votes," thus the outcome is "critical."

Critical for whom? Not for the young democracy in the GDR and not for the many millions of people who wanted and want a united but not a hurried fatherland. Critical perhaps only for those who wanted to deprive the PDS of the opportunity to legitimate itself in a democratic way. The new party has taken its opportunity with determination. It owes to itself and to its voters to contribute its weight to the future decisions in parliament. Not as an onlooker but as someone who participates in shaping policy.

People's Deputies To Be Screened for Stasi Past

LD2103161590 Hamburg DPA in German 1534 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Excerpt] East Berlin (DPA)—All 400 deputies of the newly elected GDR People's Chamber are due to be investigated on whether they were formerly employees of the State Security Service (Stasi). "Serious" information and accusations addressed to the Commission for the Dissolution of the Stasi will in this way be cleared up.

On Wednesday [21 March], commission member Bishop Gottfried Forck read out to the press in East Berlin a letter to all People's Chamber parties in which they are called upon to communicate the names and data on their deputies by Friday. They are requested to consent to the investigation of their parliamentary members in order to clear up the accusations and to safeguard the protection and integrity of the deputies against false accusations. [passage omitted]

De Maiziere Denies Stasi Involvement

AU2203090290 Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 22 Mar 90 p 1

["Hz."/"ihl."-signed report: "GDR Deputies Are Screened; De Maiziere Rejects Accusation of Involvement"]

[Text] Berlin—Now all 400 deputies of the newly elected GDR People's Chamber are to be screened by the end of the year to ascertain whether they have worked for the State Security Service [Stasi]. This was announced in East Berlin on Wednesday [21 March] by Gottfried Forck, bishop of the Berlin-Brandenburg Church and member of the committee for the dissolution of the Stasi. Forck explained this measure by "serious hints" that several new deputies might have worked for the Stasi. Lothar de Maiziere, winner of the weekend's elections [18 March] and chairman of the Eastern Christian Democratic Union [CDU], rejected as "infamous" rumors that he had been an unofficial Stasi member in the state of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED]. "I have nothing to blame myself for," De Maiziere told SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG on Wednesday [21 March].

On Wednesday morning in West Berlin, Forck and FRG President Richard von Weizsaecker discussed widespread assumptions in the GDR that former Stasi members, among them possibly present People's Chamber deputies, have meanwhile been recruited by the West German Federal Intelligence Service. However, Forck said that this is "only a rumor."

Forck said that possibly suspicious deputies should be given the opportunity to look at their Stasi files, to comment on them, and, if necessary, to vacate their seats. In a second letter [as published], the central committee called on the regional and local citizens' committees to support the investigations and to refrain from individual activities in this respect. According to committee member Werner Fischer, the volume and the contents of the hints "assumed such dimensions that action is required." According to Fischer's estimates, approximately 40 deputies might have worked for the Stasi in various functions before. The Erfurt citizens' committee reported that 40 of the 56 deputies from Erfurt Bezirk are mentioned by name in the Stasi files, four of them as actual informers. However, Guenter Eichhorn, secretary of the central committee, brought a charge against the Erfurt citizens' committee for the betrayal of secrets because it had disclosed the contents of files. In contrast to Forck, Minister Rainer Eppelmann, chairman of the Democratic Awakoning, advocated the disclosure of all 400 files.

Apparently, CDU Chairman de Maiziere, the most promising candidate for the office of premier, is the most prominent case in a wave of alleged disclosures which is probably controlled by former Stasi officers.

According to information acquired by SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, like former Democratic Awakening Chairman Wolfgang Schnur, De Maiziere is accused of having cooperated with the Stasi for years. Synod member De Maiziere made himself a name as defense counsel for persecuted Christians. He does not deny that he had also "contacts" with the Stasi "in the interest of the defendant," De Maiziere said. However, there was no cooperation, he stated.

Gysi Comments on Election Results

AU2203093590 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 19 Mar 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Gregor Gysi to NEUES DEUTSCHLAND on the Election Results: Our Result—Surprisingly Good"]

[Text] The result of the Party of Democratic Socialism should be considered good, if one takes into consideration that it was that party against which all other parties and movements were aimed, that it was that party which was subjected to the most massive attacks by Western media, and that it was that party—admittedly, besides other parties—which had to do without aid from the West and which had to link the election campaign with a profound process of renewal, which was very difficult. All this is hardly compatible. Given these facts, the result is surprisingly good.

The second thing is that I am naturally shocked about the strength of the alliance, in particular of the Christian Democratic Union of Germany [CDU]. One has to realize that the CDU members had no share at all in the movement of renewal in the fall. Thus, those who did not initiate this movement have emerged as victors.

Of course, this clearly shows that many citizens were overtaxed by the overall situation, which has swept over us. They believed the promises of the FRG chancellor, who told them that only those who vote for the CDU may also expect money. This is not an election campaign anymore, it is an attempt to buy people. But it worked.

Now I hope that we, together with the Social Democratic Party [SPD] and other parties and movements, will prevent the formation of a two-thirds majority for the disadvantage of the GDR population. For changes in the Constitution the CDU needs either the SPD or us. This means that we must be able to permit changes in the Constitution only to the extent to which they really are in the interest of the GDR citizens. In my view, this means that, if the SPD acts accordingly, the discussion about Article 23 is off the table. This means a process of unification instead of an anschluss.

In the opposition we will join all those with whom we can take joint actions. I could imagine that our group would first present a draft law on the abolition of compulsory military service in the GDR.

Gysi on Elections, Future

AU2203093190 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 20 Mar 90 p 3

[Interview with Gregor Gysi, chairman of the Party of Democratic Socialism, by Karin Doerre and Matthis Loke, in Berlin on 19 March: "We Must Not Lose the Courage to Dream"]

[Text] After the announcement of the preliminary final result of the People's Chamber elections we spoke with Gregor Gysi in the House of the Party of Democratic Socialism [PDS] on Monday morning [19 March] around 0230.

[ND] What do you think is the reason for the—as you yourself called it—dismaying election result, which almost gave an absolute majority to the Alliance?

[Gysi] This is linked with the past 40 years. It is linked with the fact that disappointment was profound. It is linked with the fact that we were all overstrained by the great number of processes which took place here at times. We were suddenly taken in by FRG politicians in a way that generally overtaxed us. This overtaxing obviously also led to an identity crisis, to a loss of self-confidence. There were many things that called for quick solutions. The Christian Democratic Union of Germany seemed to offer quick solutions.

[ND] Stefan Heym said on election day that the GDR will only be a footnote in world history, so to speak. Is the anschluss of the GDR to the FRG in line with Article 23 no longer any problem?

[Gysi] I think that it is a problem, because it is not only a problem for the GDR but a problem of international law. On the one hand, it is connected with the other European states. On the other, the Social Democratic Party has recently come out more clearly against Article 23. If it sticks to this, the alliance will not be able to manage with the League of Free Democrats alone. Because for Article 23 the GDR Constitution would have to be changed in a way which is possible only with a two-thirds majority, which the Alliance would then not have. Thus, much also depeds on the behavior of the social democrats.

[ND] Do you see a chance for the German left in the long run? Which role will the PDS play?

[Gysi] First of all, I see a chance for the German left, and second, it is also absolutely necessary to use this chance. The PDS will probably play an important role because it has a store of experiences and competence one cannot do without. The result of the PDS in itself is not bad, the other results are a problem. If one considers the fact that the PDS actually started at zero, if one considers the spite against it, if one considers the history, the burden it participated in carrying and which it is wiling to carry, and the fact that it was faced with the task of pursuing renewal and an election campaign at the same time, then it is, in fact, a relatively good result. But the other constellations are unfavorable.

[ND] One of the PDS slogans was: "Courage to dream." Do you still have the courage to dream?

[Gysi] Yes.

[ND] Where does it come from?

[Gysi] For instance, from more than 1.8 million votes. This is quite something. These are more than 1.8 million people. This is quite a lot. It is not possible to simply pass them by, is it?

[ND] It is paradoxical that those who started the renewal, such as New Forum or other movements, are now standing outside. It is also paradoxical that it was the first free election in a sovereign country—and, in the end, it only serves to abolish this sovereign country

[Gysi] Yes, This demonstrates the contradictions of this election. Before, it was so easy for the Alliance. It did not have to offer any policy, it simply had to say: We join the FRG. And this makes the GDR superfluous.

[ND] When will the PDS People's Chamber group constitute itself and who is likely to be its chairman?

[Gysi] First we have to wait for the official final result with the confirmation of the candidates—who is elected and who is not. Then the group will constitute itself very quickly. The People's Chamber group will decide on the chairman. I do not want to anticipate this decision.

[ND] What will the future cooperation with other leftist forces in parliament be like?

[Gysi] I assume that these things will develop into a new direction, because there are no other ways of being effective in a democratic sense and of preventing misdevelopments to the detriment of the GDR citizens, which could be considerable.

[ND] What will the PDS People's Chamber group concentrate on in its work?

[Gysi] The group will have to concentrate on two things. First, on presenting propowals for laws. It will retain the right—also according to the current Constitution—to take initiatives in this direction. And second, it will have to concentrate on publishing questions and matters that will happen or will be attempted.

[ND] How do you see Germany and Europe in the year 2000? Have your ideas changed a bit as a result of the outcome of the elections?

[Gysi] No. There is still much time left until the year 2000. By then the need for a third path will become increasingly clear. Therefore, there are also chances that this path will be taken because it does not involve issues that affect only Germany. These are issues that affect all of mankind, issues which have to be put on the agenda because, otherwise, civilization might come to an end.

[ND] But the socialist idea has suffered a defeat today.

[Gysi] In any case, Stalinism has suffered a severe defeat, and over the short period we have not been able to make it clear that there is a usable, better alternative to it. Given the time it had for renewal, the PDS has achieved a good result thanks to the many members and sympathizers and their hard work over the past weeks. However, we cannot be satisfied with the overall result. We must not lose the courage to dream. At the same time, we must remain capable of action and we must take the next steps with consistency. We must keep our hand extended. And we must try to expand our community of solidarity even more intensively in order to struggle for a rising political influence on this basis. Actually, I am rather optimistic that we will be able to achieve this.

Ebeling on Election Results, Policies

AU2203094190 Hamburg DIE WELT in German 20 Mar 90 p 4

[Interview with Hans-Wilhelm Ebeling, chairman of the German Social Union, by Peter Schmalz; place and date not given: "The SPD Wants To Split the Winners of the Elections"]

[Excerpts] [Schmalz] The Alliance has gained a great victory. The Christian Democratic Union [CDU] performed surprisingly well. Was this a disappointment for the German Social Union [DSU]?

[Ebeling] I do not think so. Considering that we have only existed for eight weeks and achieved seven percent, this is surprising. For us it is a very great success. We had to produce a party out of a hat and are stronger than the Free Democratic Party [FDP], which was founded long before us. For we are completely new on the party scene and still we were able to establish ourselves.

[Schmalz] So you are not disappointed that a two-digit result was not achieved?

[Ebeling] Some in my party had hoped for it. I was realistic. I knew that there were white spots on our map because the time for organization was too short. One has to be able to make policies without dreaming. I am convinced that almost seven percent is more than we had a right to expect. Many people have told me that it is fantastic that things came off so well. However, there are land associations that had hoped for more and are now disappointed. [passage omitted]

[Schmalz] The Social Democratic Party of Germany [SPD] might belong to the new GDR coalition government. Its chairman said that it would cooperate with the Alliance, but without the DSU? What then?

[Ebeling] This is an attempt by the SPD to split the Alliance. However, it will not succeed, the CDU will not participate. If it demands such a thing, the SPD must admit the question on whether it is still fit for politics. We are of the opinion that coalition talks will have to be held in all directions. We back this.

[Schmalz] What partner do you desire?

[Ebeling] The FDP. However, we also have to be realistic in this context. We need a two-thirds majority in the People's Chamber to abolish the Constitution. For we

want to accede to the Basic Law by means of Article 23 and for this purpose we have to find majorities in the People's Chamber. This will be very difficult. The CDU clearly sticks to it and so does the FDP. But this is not sufficient.

[Schmalz] The SPD probably prefers the road via Article 146.

[Ebeling] In contrast to us, there are different tendencies there. I hope that the SPD will find a uniform line. Willy Brandt advocated Article 23 more or less clearly and Helmut Schmidt was completely unambiguous. I could envisage that at least half of the 21 percent of the SPD voters are in favor of the shorter road.

[Schmalz] By what time must the government be formed?

[Ebeling] I hope that this will be implemented very soon because, considering the people's impatience, we have little time. We cannot afford to start something off again very slowly and then put it off. I think that we will hold all talks within the next eight days unless insuperable difficulties arise.

[Schmalz] Will there be a member of the government called Ebeling?

[Ebeling] I do not know. The party has to decide this. I am available, but I am not applying for it.

[Schmalz] Do you strive for a particular ministry?

[Ebeling] I do not want to come into a ministry where I have no expert authority—for example, the Justice or Science Ministry. However, first we have to wait and see how many ministries there will be. I think that the fewer there are the more efficient the government will be. I do not want to travel with 17 ministers like Mr. Modrow.

[Schmalz] When will the People's Chamber apply for accession?

[Ebeling] Immediately after the formation of the government.

[Schmalz] Will this government survive this year?

[Ebeling] Oh, this is a difficult question. I could envisage that we will jointly vote in the next Bundestag elections if unity is achieved this year. Then such a government would no longer have a mandate.

[Schmalz] You will meet the chancellor in Bonn on Wednesday [21 March]. Will you give him the advice to work toward joint elections as soon as possible after this great victory of the CDU in the GDR?

[Ebeling] I am pressing for it.

[Schmalz] What relationship do you have with the CDU?

[Ebeling] A very good one. Exactly as with the Christian Social Union [CSU].

[Schmalz] But there are voices in your party which want an even closer relationship with the CSU.

[Ebeling] Well, this is discussed. I have always said that we are sister parties of the two Bundestag parties.

[Schmalz] Will the DSU continue to exist after unity has been achieved?

[Ebeling] In all probability, yes.

[Schmalz] In all laender?

[Ebeling] I could envisage this. We have not yet discussed this, but I think that the DSU will also have an important function in a united Germany.

[Schmalz] Also in Bavaria?

[Ebeling] Oh, I have not yet been asked this question. But I do not think so.

Eppelmann Interviewed on Unity, Elections

AU1103154290

[Editorial Report] Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German at 1005 GMT on 11 March carries a 25-minute interview with Minister Rainer Eppelmann from the Democratic Awakening by Karl Wilhelm Fricke. At the beginning, Minister Eppelmann speaks about changes that the party has undergone since its founding. He estimates the current number of party members at about 30,000. When asked about allegations leveled against Chairman Schnur, claiming that he used to be an informant of the former Ministry of State Security, Eppelmann stresses that "the party has no reason to question Schnur's statements and to distrust him."

In connection with the party's Germany policy, Minister Eppelmann stresses that he believes that the GDR can contribute something to an all-German state. Because of shortages that exist in many spheres in the GDR, people have always had to rely on each other and supported each other. He hopes that "a piece of solidarity can be preserved" in a united Germany.

Eppelmann stresses that unification will take place at a different pace in various spheres. "Even if Hans Modrow and Helmut Kohl signed a treaty today stipulating unification under Article 23 of the Basic Law, unity would not yet be a reality." He thinks that economic and financial community unity will be achieved quickly, whereas unity will be implemented more slowly in other spheres. "I proceed from the assumption that two freely elected German governments will hold talks as partners, and that one does not swallow the other," he stresses.

Concerning fears among the GDR population in connection with German unity, he accuses the Party of Democratic Socialism [PDS] of fanning such fears. He also rules out a coalition with the PDS after elections on 18 March.

Genscher Quoted on Intra-German Cooperation

AU2203094990 East Berlin DER MORGEN in German 19 Mar 90 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Negotiations With Equal Rights"]

[Text] The freely elected GDR Government will hold negotiations with the FRG on the basis of equal rights; cooperation will be independent of the GDR election results and the composition of the future government. This was stated by FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in an interview for the first edition of MITTELDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, which has been published instead of FREIHEIT in Halle as of Saturday [17 March]. The interview was prereleased to ADN.

The economic, monetary, and social union should become effective "as quickly as possible," Genscher stressed in this interview. Bonn's promises for transforming savings will be kept.

The Germans are determined not to carry out unification at the cost of third parties and not to confront anyone with faits accomplis. The FRG foreign minister stressed that it has been said clearly "what we want to unite: The FRG, the GDR, all of Berlin—nothing less but also nothing more."

Pieroth on Economic Problems, Jobs Creation

AU2103151990 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 21 Mar 90 p 4

[Interview with Elmar Pieroth, economics minister-designate, by Dieter Staecker in Berlin; date not given: "We Must Retrain People"]

[Text] [Staecker] Being economics minister in the GDR seems to mean fulfilling a historic task, given the desolate state of the economy in the second German state.

[Pieroth] I think you are exaggerating. However, it really is a challenge. The point is to make the economic prospects for the GDR so favorable within a few months that nobody leaves his country for economic reasons any more.

[Staecker] Chancellor Kohl promised a lot to the GDR citizens....

[Pieroth] The chancellor did not promise a lot; he only described realistically what the social market economy will bring the GDR. I am confident that following the introduction of the Deutsche mark in the next two years, we will be able to increase labor productivity by between 40 to 50 percent. In the following three years, another 50 percent will be added.

[Staecker] When will the Deutsche mark be introduced?

[Pieroth] As soon as possible. No problem will become easier if it is tackled later. On the contrary—there is the danger that the impetus, the people's readiness to work hard for good money, will change into frustration if it all takes too much time. However, we cannot set a deadline. First of all, the experts who are dealing with the topic and are only now getting the correct figures from the GDR must conclude their work.

[Staecker] What would you personally suggest?

[Pieroth] I think it will happen in the next six months.

[Staecker] In the meantime, you will have to consider that you will become the chief of some GDR combines that are almost bankrupt. Will you recommend consulting a referee in bankruptcy?

[Pieroth] The most important thing is for the people to get qualification opportunities, to be trained in their factories for better quality and for new products with better production methods, and to be retrained.

[Staecker] Retrained to do what?

[Pieroth] For those four million jobs which will be created in the GDR in small- and medium-sized enterprises and in service enterprises, including small workshops and banks. All those people will work in such enterprises who have so far done unproductive work in combines.

[Staecker] Four million new jobs? That sounds utopian.

[Pieroth] Do not forget that two-thirds of all jobs in the West are available in small- and medium-sized enterprises as well as in the service industry. Translated to the situation in the GDR, the figure would be five million. So far, there have only been one million jobs in the GDR in these areas, so that four million additional jobs will be created.

[Staecker] Are you not concerned with the fact that one bankruptcy is followed by the next?

[Pieroth] You could also say that nothing is more successful than success.

[Staecker] How long will you hold the position as GDR economics minister? For how long will the GDR exist as a state?

[Pieroth] We want to achieve unity as soon as possible.

Leipzig Spring Fair 'Surpassed All Expectations'

AU2103133990 East Berlin BERLINER ZEITUNG in German 19 Mar 90 p 1

[ADN/BZ report: "Leipzig Fair Surpassed All Expectations"]

[Text] Leipzig—After seven days of lively commercial activity, the 1990 Leipzig Spring Fair concluded on Saturday [17 March].

According to Siegfried Fischer, director general of the Leipzig Fair Office, this event in the 825th year of the fair surpassed all expectations.

The fair, with its 9,000 exhibitors from about 70 countries, focused in particular on the extremely lively intra-German trade. An unprecedented number of cooperation contracts and agreements on other forms of cooperation were concluded. There were innumerable contacts. GDR companies and foreign trade enterprises concluded many export and import contracts with partners from many other countries.

The following figures also demonstrate the successful course of the fair: visitors from more than 100 countries—with about 650,000, their number is considerably higher than that of the past fairs. In a poll carried out by the Fair Office, 85 percent of the polled exhibitors stated that their expectations had been completely or at least partly fulfilled.

Publication of New Vogtland Daily Announced

LD1903141990 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0827 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Plauen (ADN)—VOGTLANDANZEIGER is the name of a new daily paper for the Plauen, Oelsnitz, Klingenthal, Auerbach, and Reichenbach districts. Initially, the Plauen publisher Nauer Vogtlaendischer Anzeiger Gmbh and the Hofer Frankenpost-Verlag will be marketing a print-run of 62,000 copies.

Independent Weeklies Advertising Agency Founded

AU1203164490 East Berlin BERLINER ALLGEMEINE in German 10-11 Mar 90 p 2

[ADN report: "New Weeklies and Sorb Agency"]

[Text] The press department of the Stuttgart-based publishing house Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt has reported that the first issue of an independent weekly for Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt, SACHSEN-SPIEGEL, was put into circulation on Friday [9 March].

Another weekly, MAERKISCHE WOCHE, whose first issue is to be published this weekend [10-11 March], regards itself as an independent weekly for the Potsdam, Frankfurt (Oder), and Cottbus Bezirks.

The Sorb agency "Krabat-Lubin" was established in Bautzen on Friday. It regards itself as an enterprise for advertising, public relations, and tourism.

TV Changes Name to 'German Television' 12 Mar

LD1003133390 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1101 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—GDR Television will be called "German Television" [Deutscher Fernsehfunk] beginning on Monday [12 March]. It is the legal successor to GDR Television and is taking back the name it bore until 1972. This emerges from a press release by the television service.

The renaming has come about in the course of transforming the television station into an independent, public institution.

The DFF's—the television station's abbreviation—emblem will be a view of the Brandenburg Gate from the front.

Further Reaction to Ethnic Unrest in Romania

UN Session Requested

LD2203091890 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0700 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Hungary has asked the UN Security Council to deal with the situation that has developed in Transylvania. The representative of our homeland has held negotiations with the current chairman of the Security Council [words indistinct].

Karpati Denies Army Redeployment

LD2203085590 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0700 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] The Hungarian minister of defense has denied that Army troops have been redeployed from western to eastern Hungary [along the Romanian border]. Ferenc Karpati made a statement in NEPSZABADSAG about his telephone conversation yesterday morning [21 March] with the Romanian minister of national defense.

This time it was Staniculescu who telephoned him to ask him specifically about the alleged troop redeployment. According to Ferenc Karpati, such rumors can, in any case, strengthen chauvinism and the stirring up of hysteric anti-Magyar moods.

Warsaw Pact Decision Ruled Out

LD2203090290 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0700 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Gyula Horn, minister of foreign affairs, in a statement to NEPSZABADSAG, has said that a Warsaw Pact stance on the Hungarian-Romanian affair cannot be expected.

At the same time, he expressed his conviction that if the various governments and international organizations were to exert pressure on the Government of Romania to change its policy, this would undoubtedly bring results.

Bucharest Non-Reply Cited

LD2203133190 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1300 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] As long as the Bucharest government does not ensure order in the country, there is no sense in separate Hungarian-Romanian talks. All this is contained in a communique released by the Foreign Ministry on behalf of the Hungarian Government. According to this, our country is ready to sort out the problems which have arisen, but only if the Romanian premier replies to the earlier Hungarian request, in substance, through official channels.

The Budapest government, since the bloody events began in Tirgu Mures, has tried to appeal several times to President Ion Iliescu and Premier Petre Roman. However, up to now, the two Romanian leaders have not replied to Budapest's request.

Horn Consults Party Leaders

LD2103160490 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1500 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Early this afternoon, Foreign Minister Gyula Horn invited the leaders of the 12 political parties for a consultation. At the discussion, to which every invited party except the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party sent its leading representative, the situation that has developed in Romania in the wake of the Tirgu Mures events was reviewed. The consequences stemming from this were drawn and tasks were determined. The participants came to a joint decision on the necessary political steps. They will make their statement public tomorrow.

MSZMP on Magyar Aims

LD2103140490 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] The Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP] has held a news briefing. Laszlo Szente reports.

[Begin Szente recording] The MSZMP promised the expected election results to the representatives of the press, at today's briefing, but party Chairman Gyula Thurmer first spoke about the situation in Romania. I shall quote verbatim what he told me: The MSZMP chairman condemns the atrocities committed against the minorities in Romania, yet the MSZMP does not agree with the instigation of a nationalist mood by extreme circles of Magyardom in Romania. From the viewpoint of the fate of the two peoples, the MSZMP considers it a big mistake that the Hungarian bourgeois parties at the close of the election campaign are whipping up national emotions, and the MSZMP condemns the government's providing help for all this. This is what Gyula Thurmer, MSZMP chairman, said verbatim.

As for the elections, according to the party chairman, the MSZMP will emerge from the contest as a strong left-wing opposition party; it sees as possible partners the Hungarian Socialist Party [MSZP], the trade unions, the Patriotic Election Coalition, and the Agrarian Alliance. It is already proposed that henceforth, the MSZMP, the MSZP and the trade unions should jointly publish the newspaper NEW FORUM. [end recording]

MDF States Position

LD2103155390 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] [Announcer] The MDF [Hungarian Democratic Forum] press briefing, which began not long ago, may still be going on. Andras Kerekes reports:

[Kerekes] Jozsef Antall, MDF chairman, spoke primarily about his trip to Britain. However, most of the questions put by journalists, who were mainly foreign, enquired about the MDF position concerning the situation of Magyardom in Romania.

We do our utmost, but we would scarcely launch a war, Jozsef Antall replied to a sharp question, stressing that if other means do not work, it will be necessary to exert pressure on Romania through diplomatic and political means. This is what U.S. Representative Tom Lantos professes, and Senator Dodd also spoke in similar spirit, Jozsef Antall recalled. Hopefully the West European governments will have similar opinions, he added.

He most recently found in London that interest in our country is increasing as the elections approach, and at such times, the situation of Magyardom beyond the borders always enters the discussions. The MDF is a European centrist party, kindred to the Austrian People's Party and the West Germany Christian Democratic Union-Christian Social Union, and judging from the East German election results, the electors in our country will presumably feel that this trend is suited to leading the country out of the crisis. Jozsef Antall reiterated that he considers it important to maintain the country's solvency at all costs. Regarding property reform, he believes in controlled privatization.

At this point, it was announced here at the press briefing that at 1000 this morning, the MDF began the second land distribution in Hungary, in Loevoepetri, Szabolcs-Szatmar County, in full accordance with the legal economic regulations.

As the second agenda point, Sandor Csoori is speaking about the events in Transylvania. A few minutes ago, the patriotic poet said that the Magyar people had watched the December events with great sympathy and excitement, indeed the entire nation had helped, and what happened there was everyone's affair, since Laszlo Tokes was the one who set off the revolution. What is happening now, however, gives rise only to fear in everyone. He believes that a counterrevolutionary process has begun, and again it focuses on a Magyar target.

In the person of Andras Suto, all the minority Magyars were attacked, Sandor Csoori emphasized.

Andras Suto's Condition Still Serious

LD2103201590 Budapest MTI in English 1840 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Budapest, March 21 (MTI)—"Andras Suto's condition is still serious, although satisfactory under the circumstances," said Dr Jozsef Farkas, medical brigadier general and head surgeon at the Hungarian Army.

As reported, the Hungarian writer had been flown from Bucharest to Budapest on Tuesday night [20 March] by a military plane after he had sustained serious injuries duing the pogrom in Tirgu Mures.

The professor said Mr Suto had undergone two operations in the Tirgu Mures military hospital, one in the head and the other in the left eye.

Mr Suto had been taken to Budapest at his own request.

Romanian Government Blames Hungary for 'Bloodshed'

LD2103235190 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2300 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] The Romanian Government holds Hungary responsible for the bloodshed in Tirgu Mures. According to a Bucharest Government statement, the Hungarians who came to Romania on the occasion of the 15 March ceremonies openly attacked the Romanian people's national feelings. The cause of the tension, which has reached a peak in the Tirgu Mures events, was the Hungarians' nationalist-chauvinist-revisionist incitement.

Furthermore, the Romanian Government communique accuses Matyas Szuros, provisional president of the Republic, of appealing to the Hungarians of Romania to direct their destiny themselves, as if Transylvania were an ancient Hungarian land.

The Bucharest document also mentions among the causes of the Tirgu Mures events the fact that Hungarian-language textbooks had reached Transylvania which showed the territory as a part of Hungary.

According to the government statement, the Hungarian authorities are distorting the Romanian situation and are impeding the development of relations by stirring up passions.

The Bucharest leadership has taken the necessary measures in the interest of restoring public order. These, however, have not been able to be effective because of the propaganda coming from Hungary.

The Romanian Government statement concludes by calling on Hungary not to interfere in Romania's internal affairs.

Romanian Ambassador on Bilateral Relations

AU2103135690 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 15 Mar 90 p 4

[Report on interview with Romanian Ambassador Simion Pop by Denes Gyapay; place and date not given: "Intellectual Revolution Is Late"]

[Text] The time has come to overcome the differences between our countries—the newly appointed Romanian ambassador to Budapest said in answering a question by our correspondent. In his interview to MAGYAR HIRLAP, Simion Pop deals with the roots of the Hungarian-Romanian conflict and also expresses his confidence that, with mutual tolerance, the process of developing a new type of bilateral relations can be accelerated.

[Gyapay] For quite some time, the relations between Hungary and Romania have not been quite friendly. In your view, what are the historical reasons for this?

[Pop] Dictatorship and oppressive regimes came one after the other in both countries, and these regimes

accumulated a great amount of unsolved and postponed problems. With time, these problems became increasingly serious and critical, and they brought to the surface unfriendly and often nationalist and chauvinistic manifestations that were either obviously or less obviously noticeable on both sides. I myself lived through at least two important periods in this long historical process. Under the well-known circumstances, the Romanian people emerged from the chauvinistic and antipopular Ceausescu dictatorship by means of a bloody revolutionary struggle, and I feel that, together with us, the Hungarians appreciate the real historical value of this revolution. The other period I lived through was that prior to World War II when the Horthy-regime in Hungary brought oppression and humiliation to the Romanians in Transylvania. Looking back at history, I think that there were both advantageous and disadvantageous periods. I am convinced that the time has come to simply overcome our differences.

[Gyapay] The revolution of December 1989 led to great hopes in Hungary concerning the future: A broad public action was started to help the Romanian people. However, as time passed, it became clear that the leaders in Bucharest, as well as the Romanian leaders in areas inhabited by Hungarians continue to harbor suspicion toward the Hungarians. Why?

[Pop] Breaking up the Ceausescu dictatorship, including its entire structure, one should not be naive and think that we also succeeded in destroying its mentality overnight. Unfortunately, chauvinistic manifestations can still happen in some places, and the overgrowth of nationalism can also emerge in some places. This is part of the process of development. Our armed revolution did not last long. However, I think that the spiritual and intellectual revolution has only begun and, no matter how much we dislike it, the old habits will last for a long time. Nor can we hope that we can overcome this by some kind of sensational gestures; this process should take place in the deepest strata of the society and with sober realism. Mutual patience, good will, and understanding are essential for this.

The international solidarity, and particularly Hungary's willingness to help the Christmas revolution in Romania, makes us carry out a sincere and thorough evaluation of things. In connection with this, I would like to express my special thanks to the editorial staff of MAGYAR HIRLAP and the brotherly colleagues working there for their successful action "A Day for Romania." We, all the Romanian people of good-will would like to answer this with a single worthy and honorable initiative, namely with an eternal Romanian-Hungarian friendship.

[Gyapay] In the course of its history, Transylvania enjoyed a long period of autonomy. Many people in West European countries and in the Hungarian public say that the Hungarians, Romanians, Saxons, and Serbs in Transylvania would coexist peacefully in the framework of an autonomy. In your view, is such a solution possible?

[Pop] Indeed, one can often hear such opinions. However, a political scientist or a serious historian—either Romanian or Hungarian—would find it difficult to prove the legitimacy of such an idea, all the more so because autonomy and sovereignty have been very strictly delimited legally. However, I am neither a political scientist nor a historian. In my view, it is extremely dangerous to apply abstract ideas and strange, bizarre concepts to a geographical region or phenomenon in which these concepts do not stand a chance. The word "autonomy" derives from the Greek language, and those who are aware of its meaning also know that only the people directly affected have the right to give an answer to this question. So far, I have not heard of any such collective thought in Transylvania. Therefore, our sober emotional autonomy—and obviously others' too—should encourage wisdom, realism, and restraint.

[Gyapay] Recently, in connection with the Hungarian national minority, Romania has claimed that there are separatist efforts behind the demand for independent Hungarian schools in Transylvania. The fact that Hungarian schoolbooks can be sent to Romania only through the ministry in Bucharest seems to prove this. One can (also) draw the conclusion that Hungary allegedly falsified history. In your view, how is it possible to find an acceptable solution to the situation of Hungarians in Transylvania, perhaps through mutual guarantees?

[Pop] I am sorry, but I must say that your information is incorrect. There is no ban whatsoever on Hungarian schoolbooks in Romania. They do not have to be sent to a ministry or any other state office. However, ROMPRES has recently issued a statement. Unfortunately, the Hungarian press did not quote this in full. I myself consider it justified to make an important observation in connection with this: These books can be used for consultation and as documentary material, but they cannot be used in the official education. Every country's competent educational ministry decides on the textbooks used for teaching compulsory school subjects.

As for the Hungarian schools, the decision lies within the jurisdiction of the competent authorities, following a concrete, careful, and comprehensive analysis. Some places have already decided on separating the schools and an agreement has been reached between the Romanian and Hungarian authorities there. The opposite happened in other places, where the idea has been rejected. With all my heart, I wish that the Hungarians and Romanians in Transylvania could really live and work together and learn and decide together. Full rights and obligations for everyone for both bad things and good things should apply to Romanians, Hungarians, Szeklers, Saxons, Hungarian Moldavians, Serbs, and Jews—everyone who inhabits this region. Any kind of separatism—especially school separatism—would create an absurd situation. For example, separatism would

make it impossible for our minority brothers in Romania to learn and use the language of the country in which they live. Thus, they would exclude themselves from positions they could also fulfill in the Romanian state leadership.

Horn Chairs Hungarian-Romanian Colloquium

AU2103213990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1949 GMT 21 Mar 90

["For Understanding and Harmony"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Budapest ROMPRES, 21/3/1990—"The colloquium of Romanian and Hungarian intellectuals for reconciliation" took place in Budapest at the initiative of VON FERENCZY news agency. Attending this meeting of particular importance for both countries were outstanding personalities like Mircea Dinescu, Ioan Alexandru, Dan Petrescu, Smaranda Enache, Gabriel Liiceanu, Geza Domokos, Eva Gyimesi, Sandor Kanyadi, Lajos Demeny, Attila Palfalvi, and for Hungary Csaba Tabajdi, Sandor Csoori, Tibor Csercs, Pal Bodor, Gela Pomogats, Pal Koteles, Tamas Gaspar Miklos. All names renowned in Europe, outstanding intellectuals.

The opening address was made by Josef von Ferenczy, the initiator of the colloquium.

Although the colloquium should not have been political in character it proceeded under the patronage of the Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn.

The first day was particularly productive, the atmosphere was serene, numerous proposals were made. But, unfortunately, at the end of the first day of debates the news arrived about the events in Tirgu Mures, casting a shadow on the ray of light and hope that had illuminated the hall of friendship. Passions ran high, and understanding seemed to waver.

But, this time too, night proved to be a good counsel, and the next day reason triumphed.

The proceedings continued in the same spirit of confidence in the present and future, and after lengthy debates, late into the night, the documents of the meeting were signed.

After two-day debates the basic idea was outlined that the contradictions between the two cultures and people were not so profound to make a normal coexistence impossible and hamper the development of one each of them, the communique reads inter alia.

Horn Welcomes Alliance Party Victory in GDR

AU2203093790 Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 20 Mar 90 p 10

[Christoph von Marschall report: "Foreign Minister Horn: 'Thank God'"]

[Text] Budapest, 19 March—Hungary's Foreign Minister Gyula Horn has welcomed the result of the GDR elections. On the fringe of a meeting of Hungarian and Romanian intellectuals, who are trying to reduce national tensions, Horn, who belongs to the Socialist Party, told SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG that the victory of the conservative Alliance of Germany means a strengthening of the government coalition in Bonn. "Thank God" forecasts of different results did not come true. This is particularly important for the states in east Central Europe, which depend on aid because of economic tensions. No one has done so much for Hungary as Chancellor Kohl and Foreign Minister Genscher. Only upon specific inquiry, did Horn pay tribute to the fact that the Party of Democratic Socialism had achieved a better result than expected.

Visa Exemption Agreement Reached With FRG

LD2103180890 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0700 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The system of compulsory visas will cease to exist between our country and the FRG starting 1 May. [passage omitted] In the wake of this news, Laszlo Kovacs, state secretary in the Hungarian Foreign Ministry, told our program the following by telephone:

[Begin Kovacs recording] On 15-16 March, the experts finalized the agreement according to which Hungary and the FRG will abolish compulsory visas in the case of journeys involving stays of less than three months which are not for purposes of employment. Therefore, this is an all-encompassing visa exemption agreement. There was a partial one earlier, which affected diplomatic and official passports, but this new one will also pertain to private passports.

This began as a Hungarian initiative. Initially, the FRG was averse to it because it was part of an agreement, the so-called Schengen agreement, signed by the three Benelux countries—Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxemburg—France and the FRG, and which stipulates a coordination of visa practices. The FRG earlier indicated that it would be ready to make this gesture to Hungary, to conclude an agreement, but it could not do this because of the states participating in the Schengen agreement.

The significance of the step, the gesture, also is indicated by the fact that Foreign Minister Genscher—who, as is generally known, has an extremely busy schedule since he is now in Namibia, and on Friday and Saturday he will take part in a meeting of the European Council's foreign ministers in Lisbon—will come here for a brief, approximately 90-minute visit to Budapest to sign the agreement with this government before the elections. [end recording]

Airline Suspends Israel Flights for Soviet Jews

LD2103160890 Budapest MTI in English 1522 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Budapest, March 21 (MTI)—After receiving threats from the Islamic Holy War for the Liberation of Palestine, the Hungarian airline Malev has suspended, with immediate effect, the transfer of Soviet emigrants to Israel, since it does not wish to endanger the life of its passengers or put its planes at peril.

As reported earlier, in an appeal made public on March 16, the said organization threatened the airlines of all those countries that participate in transporting Soviet Jews to Israel.

In the warning, issued via foreign news agencies, the organization gave the airlines concerned a week-long period of grace.

Those airlines which continue taking Jews to Israel after this deadline will be prevented with, as the warning put it, the organization's "own characteristic means."

Airlines Threatened by 'Islamic Holy War' Group

LD2103130690 Budapest MTI in English 1025 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Budapest, March 21 (MTI)—Security measures unparallelled in Hungary have been introduced at Budapest's Ferihegy Airport.

Colonel Geza Kantor, deputy head of department at national police headquarters, told Wednesday's MAGYAR HIRLAP why.

He said the steps were made necessary as on March 16, the organization Islamic Holy War for the Liberation of Palestine made public an appeal in which it threatened the airlines of all those countries that participate in transporting Soviet Jews to Israel.

Budapest is a transit station for a major part of the emigrants from Moscow, and the Hungarian airline Malev is one of the companies which participates in transporting them.

In the warning, issued via foreign news agencies, the organization gave the airlines concerned a week-long period of grace. Those which continue carrying Jews to Israel after this deadline will be prevented with the organization's "own characteristic means."

"We have no doubt that these 'characteristic means' refer to various forms of terrorism," the colonel said.

"Therefore, the Hungarian police, border guards, and Malev's security guards have stepped up cooperation. The internal anti-terrorist group, the commandos, have been placed on alert. Strict security measures are being applied to ensure the safety of passengers going to Tel Aviv. This heightened protection also runs to those who spend one or two days in Budapest.

"Everything possible, in proportion with the possibilities, has been done to protect passengers using Budapest Airport, internationally acknowledged as secure.

"The primary aim is to prevent terrorist action, but, should efforts of this kind indeed be made, all I can say is that the weapons members of the security service wear aren't there simply as an ornament," Colonel Kantor said.

Nemeth on Elections, Candidacy

LD2103154990 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Premier Miklos Nemeth does not consider it possible for some renowned socialist politicians to accept ministerial portfolios in the new cabinet, while in the meantime their party goes into opposition. The politician gave an interview to the Italian paper CORRIERE DELLA SERA.

In reply to a question, Miklos Nemeth said that according to indications some of the population would welcome it if some esteemed Hungarian Socialist Party members, such as Gyula Horn or Matyas Szuros, were to be given a role in the future government. However, according to him, it is necessary to abide by the rules of the game of parliamentary democracy.

He also said that in his electoral constituency, at the request of the local authority and inhabitants, he is running as an independent candidate, with the support of several parties. The Irish foreign minister persuaded Miklos Nemeth to do this, since this practice exists in the West, too.

* Repercussions of Election Computer Switching

* Gal Dismissal Demanded

25000673 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 2 Mar 90 p 5

[Article by P. L.: "The Computerized Election Scandal"]

[Text] The Alliance of Free Democrats [SZDSZ] demands that Interior State Secretary Zoltan Gal be relieved of his duties, and that the Interior Ministry [BM] return its election information collection and dissemination authority to the National Census Office [ANH]. This was announced by SZDSZ Manager Miklos Haraszti at a press conference yesterday afternoon. Three experts who prepared the ANH computer program for the elections also appeared at the press briefing.

ANH expert Lajos Farkas stated that a BM statement claiming that the computer system the ANH had developed could be manipulated lacks foundations. According to Farkas, the ANH developed a closed system to which no unauthorized person can have access. A further advantage of the ANH computer program is that it is capable of forwarding the information extremely quickly, providing the press with fresh data concerning

the elections, according to Farkas. Farkas believes that the BM statement actually questions the professional credibility of ANH personnel. They tested a program similar to this one at the Zalaegerszeg special elections last year, and in the course of last November's popular referendum. The computerized program forwards data after multiple security checks, and these checks are supplemented by manual controls. Their method is so secure that not even those who prepared the program could "interfere" with the system.

Responding to the NEPSZABADSAG reporter, the ANH expert said that the cost of preparing the program amounted to 73 million forints. The agreement reached in January was cancelled by the BM in such a manner that the BM did not even provide professional arguments to substantiate its charges that the ANH computerized system can be "manipulated." In response to our question, the expert added that the contract does not include a single provision which would obligate the parties to the contract to anything in case of cancellation. Thus far the ANH has received 32 million forints for its work performed.

According to SZDSZ Manager Janos Kis, Zoltan Gal is responsible for the BM elections office's November "elections information blockade." The acting head of the BM ordered the closed ANH tallying system to be placed under BM authority the other day, so that, once slowed down, the system is rendered more open, thus enabling intervention into the system, according to Kis. Not too long ago, Gal became a Hungarian Socialist Party [MSZP] candidate for representative, which is a conflict of interest. The case endangers the purity of the elections, and it also threatens the conduct of the elections. For these reasons, the SZDSZ is demanding that the head of government relieve Gal of his duties.

Haraszti also told the press conference that, according to the SZDSZ, no one was being held criminally accountable in the Duna-Gate case; instead they stonewalled it. According to a memorandum distributed to journalists, the SZDSZ will initiate criminal proceedings against Ferenc Pallagi and Jozsef Horvath after the elections for abuse of official power, and against Istvan Horvath for aiding and abetting official criminal activities. The SZDSZ is also demanding that investigations being conducted against Istvan Bajcsi, Budapest police headquarters lieutenant, and against the weekly newspaper BESZELO and 168 ORA, be discontinued.

In regard to Parliament's decision that the presidential elections be based on a popular vote, Kis said that this decision should have been rendered by the new legislature. The SZDSZ manager regarded the Thursday parliamentary decision as destablizing, and as one that "increases tensions."

* 'No Black Box' Promised

25000673 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 2 Mar 90 p 5

[Unattributed article: "Without a Black Box"]

[Text] The Interior Ministry [BM] intends to operate the parliamentary elections vote tallying system in a manner directly subordinated to individual, regional, and national elections committees whose memberships also include members delegated by the parties, in the most open manner possible and under the greatest possible control. This statement was made by BM elections office chief Dr. Tibor Csiba to an MTI reporter, in a discussion about the BM's cancellation of a contract with the National Census Office [ANH], which the office had earlier entrusted to tally the votes. Csiba stressed that they wanted to discontinue the centralized character of the computer system, the "black box" that no one could look into, not even the election committees having jurisdiction.

The system to be used by the BM will be entirely open, Csiba said. Records maintained in voting districts will be forwarded through regional centers by telefax to the National Election Committee, and thus copies of the records will be available for inspection instantly if anyone has any kind of problem. Parallelling this, a messenger service will deliver the authenticated minutes. Csiba added that the other reason for cancelling the contract is that the ANH service would have cost 120 million forints, while the BM will perform the same task at a cost of between 10 and 20 million forints. Incidentally, American and Spanish professionals visiting Hungary not too long ago also said that the tallying of votes is not as cumbersome in their countries as the one we applied most recently during the popular referendum.

* Official Ministry View

25000673 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 2 Mar 90 p 5

[Interview with Zoltan Gal, state secretary and acting interior minister, by F. Gy. A.; place and date not given: "I Am Not the One Who Counts the Votes"]

[Text] [NEPSZABADSAG] "Why did you give notice to the ANH [National Census Office]?" we asked the state secretary and acting head of the BM [Interior Ministry] in Parliament.
[Gal] Confidence was shaken between the professionals in the two organizations. In addition, it appeared as though the ANH would have confused its role. According to the law it is the function of the ANH to prepare voter registration lists. All the rest of the activities are based on a contract consummated between the BM and the ANH. At the same time, it is public knowledge that the Census Office subcontracted the work of tallying the votes and conveying the data to Kontroll Small Cooperative.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Is this why your confidence in the ANH was shaken?

[Gal] This was not the primary reason. My associates had informed me of certain accounting problems. For this reason I wrote to the chairman of the State Accounting Office and asked that he examine the performance so far on the administration and financing of the elections. I have no objection in principle to their having subcontracted the work. But determining the final outcome of the elections raises the issue of responsibility.

[NEPSZABADSAG] How much slower will you tally the votes than Kontroll Small Cooperative promised the ANH?

[Gal] I have no exact knowledge on that. Undoubtedly we will be slower. But then, we will be responsible for the final figures, and we would not be relieved of this responsibility by the fact that certain ANH leaders have relations with certain parties. This matter is publicly known.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Which parties do you have in mind?

[Gal] In my opinion it is no coincidence that the SZDSZ brought this issue up, and blew the fact that we had cancelled this contract out of proportion. In my view, it is of the essence that parties and various election organs control the system by which votes are tallied. I would like to note that the law also decentralized the authority by which the election outcome is determined, and the related responsibility. At the same time, the system offered by the ANH would have dumped all the data to the center, and the body of data would have been distributed from here back to the county and local election committees.

[NEPSZABADSAG] What's the difference in price between the two systems?

[Gal] A hundred million forints, according to the professionals. And ours is the cheaper one.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Some people are not happy about the fact that the Socialist Party's candidate for representative and state secretary is in charge of tallying the votes....

[Gal] I counted on that. This can be explained by a lack of confidence, on the one hand, and by the practices pursued by certain parties, on the other. They say things like that despite the fact that they know that I am not the one who will count the votes, and that party observers may be present at every important step.

* Open System Challenged

25000673 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 3 Mar 90 p 5

[Article by P. L.: "Further Ripple Effects of Computerized Election Scandal: An Open System or a Closed System?"]

[Text] At a Kossuth Club press conference held by the SZDSZ [Alliance of Free Democrats] yesterday afternoon, Balazs Balint, the expert for the Computer Technology and Management Enterprise, told journalists that two weeks before the Interior Ministry [BM] cancelled its contract with the National Census Office [ANH] it had asked the enterprise to develop an open computerized program and system for the collection and dissemination of election information.

Balint told journalists that his firm had recommended a closed computer system to the BM, similar to the one recommended by the ANH. In contrast, the BM is insisting upon having an open system. This system is a combination of computers and telefax machines, and is much slower than the other, and it is prone to manipulation, according to Balint. According to SZDSZ calculations, by using an open system it will take almost five days before final election results can be tallied and made public. In contrast, the election law requires that results must be made public within 24 hours from the date of the elections.

Responding to our reporter's question, SZDSZ Manager Miklos Haraszti said that several parties have expressed concern about the case just revealed, but, despite invitations, representatives from these organizations did not participate in the press conference. On the other hand, MDF [Hungarian Democratic Forum] delegate Dr. Istvan Balsai was present. Until 22 February he was a member of the National Elections Committee [OVB]. Balsai expressed the MDF position in response to our reporter's question. The MDF does not see any particular cause for concern in the fact that the BM has chosen a firm other than the ANH to perform the tasks at issue. In contrast to the SZDSZ, the MDF believes that this will not create great excitement. The MDF finds it conceivable that MSZP [Hungarian Socialist Party] candidate State Secretary Gal could ask one of his deputies to oversee the elections. In the MDF's view the so-called closed computer system is of no great significance, although it is true that the open system is indeed slower. Balsai reminded Haraszti of the fact that, interestingly, in the course of the popular referendum the SZDSZ criticized the ANH it now defends, because they allegedly leaked data related to the popular referendum to State Minister Imre Pozsgay. At the press conference Haraszti acknowledged that fact that they had erred, because the ANH was at no fault in that mater.

SZDSZ Manager Balint Magyar maintained the SZDSZ view which holds that under any circumstances the fact that the BM broke the contract with the ANH a few weeks before the elections is improper and generates a lack of confidence.

Haraszti told the press conference that most certainly, the BM versus ANH case will be part of next Monday's national summit agenda. He expressed hope that in the end it will be possible to settle this conflict, because otherwise the second round of elections is endangered.

* Open System Defended

25000673 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 3 Mar 90 p 5

[Interview with Dr. Tibor Csiba, Interior Ministry elections office chief, by Lajos Bodnar; place and date not given: "The Emphasis Is on Reliability"]

[Text] In a break period during the Friday evening session of the OVB [National Elections Committee], we asked Dr. Tibor Csiba, BM [Interior Ministry] elections office chief, about the most recent accusations that have been leveled against his office.

[Csiba] I would like to stress that directing the computer system which tallies the votes is the function of the BM. Previously we assigned this task to the ANH [National Census Office] because we could not find another solution. But their system is somewhat alien to the kind of openness which characterizes our entire election system. I do not know why we should tally the votes on the closed chain system, when the records prepared by the vote tallying committees were given to representatives of the various candidates.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Accordingly, the system would have been open in an earlier phase and become closed later?
[Csiba] Yes, and this is what we would like to eliminate; we would like to soften up the so-called hard information channels. After all, openness is the thing that makes everything reviewable. The results flow over the telefax just as fast as they do over the other line.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Will you be able to comply with the short deadline specified by law?
[Csiba] Here, as far as results are concerned, the emphasis is much rather on reliability than on speed. The country is not a single voting district. The individual districts and regional elections committees determine the local results. And it is these county data they convey for purposes of information of a national scope.

[NEPSZABADSAG] The question was raised whether the capacity of the elections office should be changed from an OVB adjunct to a subordinate.
[Csiba] There is a law today which defines our status in this way. I will gladly subordinate myself either to the OVB or to someone else. I will note, however, that from a practical standpoint we are also subordinating ourselves to the OVB at present, and the OVB is an elected, social committee. No member of any election organ or apparatus intends to question this societal control. I also voiced this view at the OVB meeting where this issue was raised.

* Election Chief Backed

25000673 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 5 Mar 90 p 4

[Lajos Bodnar article: "BM Versus ANH; the Antecedent: An Ultimatum to the BM"]

[Text] At its Friday meeting, which extended into the evening, the OVB [National Elections Committee] reviewed a number of issues related to the nomination of candidates for representative. It discussed and rejected 12 individual objections, and then heard a report presented by the elections office chief concerning the background of the conflict between the BM [Interior Ministry] and the ANH [National Census Office].

Tibor Csiba told the meeting that they did not inform the OVB and the public in advance about their intent to cancel the contract because the BM regarded the cancellation as an internal affair. The antecedents of the dispute include the fact that on 19 January the ANH presented a kind of ultimatum to the BM, indicating that they would quit the deal unless they got paid, unless they could submit an invoice for the work performed thus far, but they were not able to provide an itemized accounting for such work. Following this conflict, the BM found itself in a situation in which it could resolve the problem of tallying the votes based on its own resources, using its own apparatus, and at less cost. In the system recommended by Csiba, the results determined in voting districts would be tallied by computers locally, or more accurately at the county level, and the summary records would be telefaxed to Budapest. Actually, they would send six-page records by telefax from the 196 voting districts in the country. (This refers to the 176 individual and 20 regional voting districts.) They would establish the national figures on the basis of these records. The OVB would also receive these documents, since the county centers would forward the records to the OVB by messenger. There can be no other legal basis for an authentic decision than the record countersigned by the various parties. This cannot be replaced, even by the most advanced computer technology. We will note parenthetically that the above-described mixed system was characterized by Dr. Gabor Mathe, executive secretary of the jurists' society and member of the OVB, as the meeting of the ox-drawn carriage and peak technology, and not without foundation.

There is no opportunity for manipulation, because if the BM provides inaccurate data, this may be revealed, denied, and corrected virtually instantly on the basis of the records. The method that has been devised is suitable for the OVB to fulfill its legal obligation and to report preliminary election results within 24 hours.

A majority of the committee did not express concern about the technical solution described by the elections office, although there was some debate over a few issues of detail. In all likelihood the BM versus ANH case is on the agenda of the present political conciliatory negotiations.

* Parties Choose Dual System

25000673 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 7 Mar 90 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Who Says What? The Three Points Made By the Twelve"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted]

(2) The parties agreed that the vote tallying method must be fully responsive to the requirements established in the election law. Thus, they consider it to be particularly important that election results be publicized continuously, that the system be reviewable and controllable, and that appropriate protection exist. They agreed that with the cooperation of party experts the systems recommended by both the ANH [National Census Office] and the BM [Interior Ministry] will operate simultaneously.

The parties recognized the fact that pursuant to the election law the prime minister, in his capacity as the governmental manager of the BM, is responsible for the legality of the tasks assigned to the interior minister, and particularly for the functions related to directing the computerized vote tallying system.

Participants at the meeting felt that it was absolutely necessary for mass communication media to provide as much detail as possible to the voters concerning the order of elections, the method of voting, and other matters that must be known about the elections. [passage omitted]

* Parties on Agreement

25000673 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 7 Mar 90 p 5

[Unattributed article: "Four Views and Four Explanations"]

[Excerpts] We requested the views of five parties concerning the results of Monday's inter-party negotiations. Here are the responses:

Viktor Orban, Association of Young Democrats, FIDESZ: [passage omitted] We did not succeed in our goal to have the evaluation of election results returned to the ANH [National Census Office]. A quasi-solution was achieved in this regard. FIDESZ advocates that the BM [Interior Ministry] control system not function at all, particularly since we did not agree upon the tasks that must be performed if the two systems produce different results. [passage omitted]

Jozsef Antall, Hungarian Democratic Forum, MDF: [passage omitted] I find it significant that the issue of the BM's ministerial responsibility has finally been clarified. It has become clear that the prime minister is responsible. [passage omitted]

Imre Forgacs, Hungarian Socialist Party, MSZP: [passage omitted] We are pleased that a compromise has been reached in the dispute between the BM and the ANH, resulting in the joint use of the two data processing systems. It has thereby become possible for the two systems to check one another. [passage omitted]

* SZDSZ Will Consider Coalition With MDF

25000668B Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 24 Feb 90 p 5

[Text] The Alliance of Free Democrats [SZDSZ] would like to become the country's first party in the parliamentary elections. According to SZDSZ spokesman Peter Tolgyessy at yesterday's Kossuth Club press conference, they are willing to form a coalition with the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF], not out of party interest, but guided by the national interest and under constraint. Spokesman Janos Kis told journalists that he still has not received the letter allegedly intended for him by Denes Csengey, a member of the MDF National Presidium, in the interest of restoring "a conversational relationship between the two organizations."

At the press briefing it was said that, consistent with a decision reached by the SZDSZ managing body, Janos Kis was appointed acting chairman of the Free Democrats. In this capacity Kis represents the managing body, and they will decide at the delegates' meeting after the elections who the permanent chairman should be. Kis is not running in the elections.

Balint Magyar told the news conference that they had finalized the county, national, and Budapest slates of SZDSZ candidates for representatives. Accordingly, the party's national list is headed by Peter Tolgyessy. The SZDSZ recommends that Tolgyessy head the party's parliamentary faction. Magyar told journalists that candidates in each of the 176 election districts had been able to obtain 750 or more nominating slips. We also learned that most of the SZDSZ candidates are teachers, physicians, lawyers, and jurists, but they also include engineers and agronomists, economists and sociologists, historians and religious personalities, entrepreneurs, business executives, and a few manual laborers. As far as gender is concerned, 160 men and 16 women will represent the SZDSZ in the elections. Their nominees include four persons of German origin, one of Slovak origin, and one of Croatian origin. Four members of the Phralipe Gypsy organization will run as SZDSZ candidates on 25 March.

In conclusion, Magyar said that the managing body of the SZDSZ regards Janos Kis, Tolgyessy, and Ivan Peto as potential heads of state.

* Election Processes, Procedures Described

* Forms Publicized

25000671A Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 26 Feb 90 p 7

[Lajos Bodnar article: "Election Digest: The ABC's of Elections"]

[Excerpt] The Interior Ministry elections office has surprised all interested persons with a useful publication. A booklet prepared by Dr. Tibor Csiba, the elections specialist well known from TV news, is available free of

charge at the public information desks of most councils. The title of the publication is a familiar one: "The ABC's of Elections."

The information booklet that has appeared halfway through the campaign stresses the significance of the fact that the right to vote is a fundamental right of citizens. At the same time it points out that the exercise of this freely elective right represents an important opportunity for voters, by which they may declare the popular will by voting.

The publication briefly summarizes the most important principles of the election law, and provides a clear review of Hungarian legal provisions and the method of elections based on the combination of votes cast for an individual and a party slate. It also describes matters related to voter registration and the verification of registered voters. It presents samples of ballot forms so that as many valid votes as possible will be placed in the ballot box during the course of the March elections. [passage omitted]

* How Votes Are Counted

25000671A Budapest HETI VILAGGAZDASAG in Hungarian 3 Mar 90 p 5

[Unattributed article: "The Path Traveled By Votes"]

[Text] The peculiar feature of the present Hungarian election law is that each citizen must cast his vote on two ballot forms.

On one ballot form citizens must choose one candidate from among the candidates in their own voting districts, on the other they must choose a party, i.e. one of the regional (county, Budapest) party slates. (Accordingly, no votes may be cast for the national party slates.) The method of voting is also novel: One does not cross out the candidate not to be elected as was the case earlier. Instead, a "+" must be written next to name of the candidate (slate) to be supported by the voter. The slates are fixed; accordingly voters do not have the right to change the sequence of names appearing on slates.

Based on the majority rule principle we were accustomed to before, in individual voting districts a candidate acquires a mandate if in the first round of elections he obtains an absolute majority of the votes, or a plurality of the votes in the second round of elections. Quite naturally, the mandates that may be acquired on the basis of regional slates will be distributed on the basis of votes casts by ballot forms for the slates. Parties which run a national slate may also count on the so-called fractional vote, i.e. votes cast for party candidates who did not acquire mandates. In individual voting districts, fractional votes are those votes cast in the first round of elections which did not produce a mandate in any round of the elections. In regional voting districts fractional votes are those which were found to be insufficient for the acquisition of a mandate, and those which exceeded the minimum number of votes needed for the acquisition of a mandate. Accordingly, assuming that 20,000 votes are needed in a county to acquire a mandate on the basis of a slate, and a given party receives 25,000 votes, it will receive a representative mandate, and the remaining 5,000 votes will be taken into consideration on the national slate. If, on the other hand, a party receives only 10,000 votes, that party will not receive a regional mandate, but it may carry its 10,000 votes further. The fractional votes thus gathered and added up on a national scale may thus mature into a mandate from the national slate, because the 58 mandates produced from the parties' national slates will be distributed in proportion to the fractional votes acquired by the various parties. This is why the acquisition of the right to run a national slate of candidates is regarded as a great advantage, because in this way parties may save the fractional votes they acquire.

All of the above is this clear only at first sight, because there is the so-called four-percent rule. Parties which do not acquire four percent of the valid votes cast on a nationwide basis may not acquire mandates on the basis of either county slates or their national slate. Accordingly, it may occur that a certain party that is strong in a given region will acquire 20-30 percent of the votes cast on slates in the county, but it will not receive a mandate on the basis of its slate because that party did not perform well in other places, and thus did not surpass the four-percent threshold. Undoubtedly, this requirement violates the principle of proportionate voting (and obviously favors the large parties), bu it supposedly improves Parliament's ability to function.

The sequence established in party slates serves the purpose of personifying parties, and in part shows how much importance a given party attributes to the acquisition of parliamentary seats by certain persons. If a candidate wins in an individual voting district his name must be removed from the regional and national slates, i.e. the names of persons that follow such a candidate's name are moved forward. (In a similar fashion, the names of persons acquiring mandates by way of regional slates must be removed from the national slate.) Accordingly, if, for example, Imre Pozsgay or Peter Tolgyessy, who head their respective parties' national slates of candidates, are elected in their respective voting districts individually (or on their regional slates), the subsequent names on the national slates, i.e. Rezso Nyers or Gabor Demszky, would move up to head their respective slates, and so on.

The slates reveal a lot: if a party leader, such as Anna Petrasovits, runs in an individual voting district while she also heads one of her party's regional slates and her party's national slate, it is obvious that her party would want her to acquire a parliamentary mandate by all means. (One may be certain that parties wielding great influence will succeed in this regard.) One may also recognize the fact that while certain parties want to see certain of their party leaders become representatives, they would also like to prevent the possibility of an

individual defeat of such leaders. For this reason they are not running these leaders in individual voting districts, but they rank these leaders prominently on their slates. In this way, supposedly, Vince Voros who heads a national slate, may be as certain of acquiring a seat in Parliament as is Rezso Nyers, who also heads a national slate.

* Elections: Need for Foreign Observers Argued

* Observers' Role

25000665 Budapest HETI VILAGGAZDASAG in Hungarian 17 Feb 90 pp 73-74

[Gergely Fahidi article: "Foreign Elections Observers: Guests at the Vote"]

[Text] Controllers, observers, or just simple tourists: In what capacity should foreigners be present at the March elections? The opinions held by significant political forces are divided. There are some who would agree to even having an internationally supervised election, others do not even want to see "strangers" near the polling place.

While the parties argue whether the controlling presence of foreigners at the elections would be humiliating from the country's standpoint, several international and foreign organizations have begun to prepare their experts for the observation of the Hungarian elections. Observation, not control—this is being stressed forcefully by both Hungarians and foreigners.

With due regard for the SWAPO [South West Africa People's Organization] guerrillas and the South African troops, in Namibia UN police forces, among them Hungarian policemen dressed in blue, guarded the peaceful and proper conduct of the elections. Control takes place only in post-war situations, in a tense international atmosphere. International or foreign observation at elections is another matter. Spain, for example, invited eight Polish and four Hungarian observers to its general elections last November: For more than a decade they had to learn about democracy, and now they would like to convey their experience to countries which find themselves in situations similar to what that which followed Franco's death.

Actually the observers are guests. They have no formal authority whatsoever; they cannot sanction the abuses they learn about. If an election committee or party does not want to talk to them, it may do so. Foreigners can only request that they be permitted to enter polling places and centers where votes are counted. If needed, they may give advice, and may publicize their experiences. The purity of elections is not guaranteed by foreign observers, but their mere presence may mean a lot, because no party would like to read in prestigious newspapers from recognized authors that its victory may be questioned, that it is in doubt.

Among other organizations, the International Helsinki Association will send observers to the Hungarian elections. Back in 1975, when the Helsinki Accord was adopted, the signatory countries agreed that they would secure the human rights enumerated in the document within their own countries, and that citizens could hold their respective governments accountable for obeying those rules. Since several such Helsinki committees were formed, they established their federation headquarters in Vienna. A group of four or five persons will come to Hungary, first in February, and then at election time. This delegation includes a retired Swedish chief state prosecutor, a member of the Danish parliament, and a Polish law professor. The observers travel at their own expense, and their work is being prepared by the federation's office in Hungary. As we learned from Andrea Pelle, the office's secretary, they do not find themselves in an easy situation. When they tried to prepare a complete list of parties running in the elections, complete with addresses and telephone numbers, the elections office at the Interior Ministry was unwilling to provide any assistance, and even a special inquirer was able to receive the names and addresses of only three parties in one phone call; after that they hung up, and they had to be called again. In the end they received the complete list from the Budapest Court.

In addition to this, the Budapest office is preparing a summary study for use by the Helsinki committee observers concerning the Hungarian election preparations, the current political situation, and possible abuses and scandals. This study will be given to the foreign experts prior to their departure for Hungary, to enable them to prepare in advance. In Hungary they will seek out the parties and authorities they choose to visit. They will ask questions, obtain information, and at the end of their trip will prepare a report for the International Helsinki Federation, and supposedly will try to publish their experiences as widely as possible. The Budapest elections office of the Helsinki Federation has already received a number of reports of abuses. But the office itself cannot do more than inform the parties and the national election presidium if they learn of an event that is objectionable from an ethical standpoint, or the office of the prosecutor if they learn that a law has been violated.

The American parties will also send an international delegation. As we learned from Tom Melia, a leading associate at the American Democratic Party's foreign affairs institute (NDI), their delegation will be composed of 40 to 50 American observers of Eastern and Western Europe. The Republican Party of the United States last week held a two-day election conference in Budapest, in part to share their experiences with the Hungarian parties, and in part to express their support for and solidarity with the elections and democratization that is taking place in Hungary.

Both institutes also frequently aid in the honorable, democratic implementation of elections outside of the United States. The NDI's international group was

present, for example, at last year's decisive popular referendum in Chile, and at the presidential elections thereafter. Hungarian experts were also invited to Santiago, along with experts from Zimbabwe, Panama, and Poland.

Quite naturally, the purity of the elections in Spain or Chile cannot be attributed to the fact that a foreigner was present in each voting district. The fact that within international election committees the opposing political forces obtained a balanced representation proved to be most effective.

* MDF: No Foreign Advice

25000665 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 9 Feb 90 p 4

[Lajos Bodnar article: "Elections Experts Exchange Ideas: Are Foreign Observers Needed?"]

[Text] A two-day election colloquium began in Budapest's Beke Hotel with the participation of Hungarian and American elections experts. The experts, who appeared in response to an invitation from the National Elections Committee, the Hungarian Jurists' Society, and the Foreign Affairs Institute of the Republican Party of the United States, reviewed the results of the November referendum and the preparations for the March elections from legal and technical standpoints.

Following opening remarks made by Dr. Gabor Mathe, executive secretary of the Hungarian Jurists' Society, the participants were welcomed on behalf of the government by Dr. Zoltan Gal, state secretary and acting interior minister. He pointed out that today those who have made the technical preparations for the elections, along with the Hungarian political forces, have little experience, and that therefore they appreciate all well-intended assistance. At the same time he pointed out that the assurances for the purity of the election must be found in the country's laws and in practice based on such laws.

Robert Henderson, deputy chairman of the Republican Party Foreign Affairs Institute, provided a detailed analysis of the experiences gained in the course of the Hungarian popular referendum, as viewed from the American vantage point. The elections expert found the referendum impeccable from the standpoint of legality; at the same time, however, he made reference to small contradictions in the course of implementation. In his view, reporting the results of the referendum was inappropriate, the publication of details was unjustifiably delayed, and the records from Pest County, for instance, were submitted extremely late. He also reminded those present about the argument between the government and the opposition.

We asked Dr. Gal to express his view concerning the American elections expert's remarks.

"Despite his rather brief study of the popular referendum, Mr. Henderson clearly put his finger on the weak points," the state secretary replied. "It could be regarded a coincidence, of course, that the circumstances of implementation were studied more closely in Pest County. There are problems which deserve serious attention from the standpoint of the future. It is in the public interest that party representatives be present in election organs that take part in the implementation of the March elections. It is of similar importance that the parties delegate persons suitable for that purpose to these bodies. This is no small task, because at the national level we are talking about 50,000 to 60,000 people, and it depends largely on them that the elections are implemented in a proper manner, consistent with law."

During the first day of discussions a few representatives of Hungarian political parties were able to express their views concerning the election system. Several of them sharply criticized the method of nominations, but the response from the American expert had a sobering effect. As he said: They did not find the Hungarian method of nominating candidates to be wrong; it is also customary in the United States for future nominees to collect signatures, in given cases several thousands of signatures from their supporters. With these a candidate increases his own credibility in the voting district.

Several aspects of the relationship between the Hungarian parties and the foreign experts were discussed at the conference. We asked Dr. Istvan Balsai, present also as the representative of the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF], whether his party would like to see foreign observers participate in the March elections.

"The MDF takes the position that the foreign observation of elections—and I am thinking of political observation—is not warranted. We feel that both the legal and the political situation in Hungary are such that the legitimate conduct of elections may be entrusted to us. As far as we are concerned, we will not utilize any foreign expert advisory or related personal or material assistance. This does not mean that we have not received financial assistance to improve our technical conditions. We regard the consultation itself as appropriate. When preparations were being made for the popular referendum, several newly emerging parties did not exist at all, and from their standpoint it may be important to learn the views of American and other foreign professionals."

* Observers' News Conference

25000665 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 17 Feb 90 p 5

[Unattributed article: "Election Observers: More Programming Time for the Parties?"]

[Text] At the initiative of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, the Vienna-based International Helsinki Federation is dispatching an observation group composed of jurists to study the Hungarian elections.

At a news conference held Friday at the Kossuth Club, members of the group told of their experiences during

their brief stay. In his introductory remarks, Federation Executive Secretary Gerald Nagler said that it is the Federation's purpose to observe the realization of peaceful transition in Eastern Europe. They regard the invitation extended by the Hungarian committee as a certain challenge, which they would like to respond to in an objective and politically neutral manner. With reference to his visit with the Hungarian interior minister, the group recognizes with understanding the fact that the government regards the Hungarian elections as the internal affair of the country, while at the same time foreign experts are also welcome. The group composed of jurists regarded its function more as a certain ombudsman's role which concentrates on the investigation and remedying of complaints, and as a group which, by virtue of its number, would not be able to conduct a comprehensive observation activities.

The experts met with representatives of the People's Party, the MDF [Hungarian Democratic Forum], the Alliance of Free Democrats [SZDSZ], and the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP], but their program includes meetings with more parties. From among the complaints they learned about: Many mentioned that the various parties do not have equal access to publicity and that the gathering of nominating slips was judged mainly by smaller parties. Several complaints were received concerning certain council workers who collected nominating slips in an irregular fashion. Although the experts did not want to present themselves as judges on these matters, they made clear that the parties feel that they have received too little programming time on television. They also manifested understanding with regard to the fact that at times of transition from 40 years of dictatorial rule, people are afraid when they hand over the nominating slips.

It was announced at the press conference that the Hungarian office of the Helsinki Federation elections office—Budapest, No. 7 Marx Square, 1055—has agreed to gather citizens' complaints related to the elections, and subsequently to investigate such complaints, thus contributing to the legitimate and smooth implementation of multiparty elections.

* Smallholders Elections Rhetoric Presented

25000674D Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 26 Feb 90 p 4

[By unidentified NEPSZABADSAG reporter: "Smallholders Certain of Election Victory"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] At the 26 February Szekesfehervar elections rally, Jozsef Torgyan, head of the Independent Smallholders, Agricultural Workers, and Citizens Party [FKgP] elections office, announced that he was convinced his party has already won the elections, and that on 25 March the remaining parties may compete for only two, perhaps 20 seats [as published]. In his further remarks Torgyan said that the Smallholders Party has developed a program to save the nation, and that it has made specific recommendations on how to avoid a catastrophe. Thus, the party recommends that parliamentary representatives and ministers receive half pay until they lead the country out of its catastrophic situation. They should spend the other half of their pay to help the poorest of pensioners. In Torgyan's judgment, those in power would be forced to work for the people in that situation. Those presently in power wanted to render the new parliament non-functional by announcing that there would be a summer recess beginning on 15 June and ending in September, according to Torgyan. In contrast, the FKgP elections chief proposed that the Hungarian parliament to be elected should not be permitted to take leave before enacting the most important laws.

Torgyan also announced that if his party forms a government it will instantly give notice to the Warsaw Pact on cancelling the treaty, and will call for the departure of Soviet troops. At the same time, the Smallholders will offer their carriages and cars to help in moving them, and they will even top the taxi driver's offer for a free trip by giving packages to Soviet soldiers containing provisions for the journey, Torgyan said.

* Threshold Voting Ratio for Party Slates

25000652B Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 6 Feb 90 p 4

[Lajos Bodnar article: "Election Digest: The 'Magic' Four Percent"]

[Text] Although as compared to the earlier situation the formulation of voting circles [as published] does not change, the size of individual voting districts will be about twice the size of the old voting districts. This is largely related to the fact that while in previous elections the fate of mandates was decided almost exclusively in individual voting districts, at present the majority of mandates will be decided by the ratio of votes cast for party slates. In the past the only exception to this rule was the central slate. (In March we will be electing 176 representatives in individual voting districts, 152 representatives on the basis of regional slates, and an additional 58 candidates may acquire National Assembly seats on the basis of the national slate.)

The Council of Ministers determined which cities, villages, and districts belong to which National Assembly election district, but the fundamental principle governing the process of establishing districts is defined in the election law. Quite naturally, the electorate need not be familiar with the government decree which details the country's election districts. On the other hand, many complain that they still do not know how many candidates run in what colors, and with which party's support in their districts. During the three-week period still available for the nomination of candidates light will be shed upon this matter: The list of officially recognized candidates will be publicized.

Fortunately, the authorities did not draw election district lines with a ruler. The entire area under the jurisdiction of individual local councils has remained within single election districts. They also considered the need for a locality and its gravitational circle to be part of the same election district, to the greatest possible extent.

In Budapest there are 32 individual voting districts, and the number of mandates to be acquired on the basis of regional slates is 28. In this "ranking" the capital city is followed by Pest County, where 16 individual and 14 regional mandates are to be decided, while in Tolna and Zala counties candidates may vie for mandates to be acquired in only five individual districts and on four regional slates. (The difference is a result of the number of citizens eligible to vote, of course.)

While the holder of a mandate acquired in an individual voting district may regard himself as a sure winner, candidates running on regional slates may easily be facing an unpleasant surprise when final votes are tallied. That is, a party which in a regional voting district was unable to acquire four percent of all the votes cast for parties will not acquire mandates on the basis of either the regional or the national slates. At this point everyone is still in the race, nevertheless the law provides for a merciless selection based on the results. It does so primarily in the interest of allowing political forces which command the actual support of society to make decisions in the newly elected parliament.

* Election Officials' Work Said Marred by Delays

* Press Protests

25000672 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 1 Mar 90 p 1

[Lajos Bodnar article: "19 Parties, 1,614 Candidates Get a Start; the National Elections Committee in Continuous Session"]

[Text] The National Election Committee [OVB], chaired by Dr. Janos Nemeth, held another meeting yesterday afternoon, but it was still unable to determine the final results of the nomination of candidates. Thus far the full list of candidates running in individual voting districts has not even been submitted to the OVB.

At the meeting Dr. Tibor Csiba, chief of the Interior Ministry elections office, provided information concerning summary data received as of 28 February, but due to inaccuracies this body of data could not be regarded as final. The distribution of candidates running in individual voting districts, by parties and on a county-to-county basis, is reflected in tables printed in this issue. Another table provides a summary view of the counties in which the various parties have been able to establish regional slates. [tables not included in translation]

The initial data instantly reveal that from among the 12 parties authorized to establish national slates, the following parties' nomination campaigns were successful in all 20 regions: the Hungarian Socialist Party [MSZP], the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF], the Alliance of Free Democrats [SZDSZ], the Association of Young Democrats [FIDESZ], the Independent Smallholders Party [FKgP], and the Patriotic Election Coalition [HVK]. Altogether 19 parties were able to establish county slates in the country, although in this respect the spread is rather great. It is noteworthy that most parties—11 altogether—will be able to compete for representative mandates in Somogy County, while in Budapest nine parties have negotiated this obstacle successfully. Officials at the elections office have figured out already that the average age of candidates for representative is 46. According to data that are not considered final, the number of candidates is 1,614, and the number of females amounts to 10 percent.

The committee began its meeting at the exclusion of the public, and the meeting was opened to the public only after the press registered a protest. A heated debate evolved over the announcement of candidates who are running. Eventually the committee admonished the elections office for releasing preliminary, partial data, particularly for the inaccurate information published in Monday's NAPZARTA. (The argument concerning the open or closed character of the meeting reminded this reporter of a similar situation that evolved after the popular referendum.)

As far as the further election proceedings are concerned, the preliminary data indicate already which parties will be able to compete for mandates during the remainder of the campaign. It is also partly true that parties which in their county election regions are unable to acquire four percent of the votes cast will have established regional and national slates in vain, because they will not be able to acquire mandates. Accordingly, the nominating process must not be overestimated from the standpoint of the election outcome; at best it provides an indication of which political forces are determinant in Hungary today. The actual ranking of mass support will be decided by the votes cast by citizens, not by the ability to succeed in making nominations. Voters receive two ballot forms at the polls. With one form they cast votes for individuals, and with the other they cast votes for parties listed on county slates. Contrary to common belief, no votes are cast for the national party slates. On the other hand, one matter is certain at this point: After the vote, only 386 parliamentary mandates may be distributed among the more than 1,600 candidates and the several hundred contestants listed on party slates.

* Leak by Committee Member

25000672 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 2 Mar 90 p 5

[Unattributed article: "NAPZARTA Editorial Office Received Data From OVB Member"]

[Text] At OVB's [National Election Committee] Wednesday meeting, the fact that incorrect data had been publicized in Tuesday's NAPZARTA television

program created great havoc. In trying to find out who had provided the data, several remarks involving the editors of NAPZARTA could be heard at the meeting. The MTI [Hungarian Telegraph Agency] reporter inquired at the NAPZARTA editorial office how they had acquired the information they publicized.

In response, the editors said that they did not have any kind of data until the last moment before the Tuesday broadcast. This is because they had been told by the Interior Ministry elections office that such national data could be publicized only with the permission of the OVB. One of the two OVB members who took part in the broadcast brought along the data that was presented on television screens, and emphatically called the editors' attention to the fact that the data was unofficial, and for informational purposes only. This fact was repeated several times during the broadcast.

Thus, according to their knowledge, the NAPZARTA editors did only what they were permitted to do by the elections office, after checking with the OVB.

The editorial office was shocked to learn from press reports about a statement saying that one of their television computer technology experts had paid a visit to the elections office on Tuesday afternoon. Indeed, discussions transpired between the television and the elections office about the possibility of linking the television to the elections office computer system, in the interest of presenting a continuous influx of data. But not one technician from the television had visited the elections office. On the contrary, it was a specialist from the elections office who came to visit the television. He carried with him data on computer disks, and tried to adapt them to the television's computer. He failed, and the computerized data could not be broadcast.

* HITEL Editor: Election Process 'Circus'

25000664 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 16 Feb 90 p 6

[Interview with Zoltan Biro, HITEL editor in chief, former Hungarian Democratic Forum (MDF) managing director, and current member of MDF national presidium, by Lajos Pogonyi; place and date not given: "This Nation Expected Something Else"]

[Text] Zoltan Biro is the editor in chief of HITEL. Until last fall he served as managing director of the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF], and at present he is a member of the MDF national presidium. How does he feel in the era that has been nicknamed 'peaceful transition"?

[Biro] I feel bad, just as the overwhelming majority of the country's populace does. This nation expected something else. I thought that we would be able to establish a democratic parliament in a transitional period which would not drag on for too long. I do not want the make the MDF appear visionary, but we demanded the establishment of a provisional national assembly to frame the constitution in November 1988. Once we recognized that there was no chance of that, we urged that the elections be brought forward in time. The country is in a miserable state today, and we could have spared ourselves much of this.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Who should be blamed for all this; after all the party-state as such has already disintegrated in one way or another?

[Biro] Everyone is responsible. In those days neither the opposition parties nor the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP] came to our side. The parties were too selfish.

[NEPSZABADSAG] More accurately, they were not prepared to be counted.

[Biro] Yes, but even then we openly admitted that the MDF was not prepared for the elections. Six months ago a free parliament would have enjoyed so much confidence that it would have been able to lead the country on a more secure path.

[NEPSZABADSAG] The present government is exposed to multiple pressures. There are opposition parties that are double-dealing with regard to the Nemeth government, to put it mildly.

[Biro] I do not regard this as appropriate. A party that practices hypocrisy with respect to the government also harms the country. It is, of course, another matter whether one may argue about the government's financial policies, which also I believe are wrong. At the same time, this government exerts virtually superhuman efforts to sustain itself.

[NEPSZABADSAG] But I do not believe it does so because it does not wish to yield the steering wheel.

[Biro] I agree. It does so because at present, at least, there is no other way out for the country. More appropriately, there is another possibility, and that is chaos.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Meanwhile the actions of the government are being torpedoed by several dozens of phantom parties. Tell me, is this normal in your view?

[Biro] By no means. I find it unfortunate that sixty small parties are operating in Hungary.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Perhaps this is an overreaction to the single-party structure.

[Biro] Precisely. Consider this: For half a century in Hungary one could not even utter a word about parties. A certain hunger evolved. Now ten people get together.... All of this makes one feel bitter, because they may shatter political public life. There are many so-called politicians who like to present themselves, and are loud and aggressive, but they have nothing to say.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Unfortunately we have come to see a situation in which the people have difficulty in sorting out the multitude of parties.

[Biro] They do not see the forest for the trees. A large majority of the people have learned to hate politics. They are bitter and disgusted as they watch this circus.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Perhaps the Communists should not be held responsible for this, or should they?
[Biro] Not for the present situation, in the strict sense. This moment is no longer theirs. The bulk of Communists are outside the shoreline. But this is not important now. Of importance is the fact that we will not be taken seriously abroad. We may lose our earlier status if that happens.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Meanwhile, some in the opposition suggest, even state, that we have fallen behind the neighboring East European countries; that we have slowed down.
[Biro] The way this is stated is not true by any means. They are forgetting something. The processes in the GDR, Czechoslovakia, and Bulgaria were relatively free of risk, because the Soviet, Polish, and Hungarian changes had prepared the way. In those countries the excessive flourishing of parties is just beginning, and I believe one must count on that everywhere.

[NEPSZABADSAG] About the founding of parties. To what extent were you pleased when the MDF became a party?
[Biro] That is not a matter of being pleased. We demanded that a multiparty system be established. When the MDF became a party it regarded this event as something that necessarily follows from the rules that govern the internal motions of society. I am not against organizations becoming parties; what I hate is when a party places its own interests above the country's interests.

[NEPSZABADSAG] But today everyone is invoking the God-given people, the silent majority if you will. Is there such a thing at all?
[Biro] There is, but to what extent and how long this mass remains silent cannot be told. A large majority of Hungarians are silent, but they feel bad and are unpredictable. It is also possible that this silence is actually silent protest.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Let us return to the MDF, of whose leadership you were left out. Which wing prevailed: the populist-national, the liberal, or the Christian platform?
[Biro] I was not left out of the leadership to begin with. Although I do not participate in the presidium meetings, I am a member of that body. The populist-national trend is much stronger than the liberal group, because its traditions and roots run deeper. The populist-national trend reaches back to Bibo's and Laszlo Nemeth's legacy.

[NEPSZABADSAG]. Could we say that the liberal group is closer to the Alliance of Free Democrats [SZDSZ]?
[Biro] There are two kinds of liberalism. One is the liberalism of the 19th Century nobility, and I do not believe that this is characteristic of the SZDSZ. And as far as the rest of the liberal trends are concerned, well, they could be Thatcherist, or the kind nurtured by the West German Free Democratic Party [FDP]. I could go on. I really could not tell what the SZDSZ understands by liberalism.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Really, which party will be your biggest opponent in the elections?
[Biro] I see two parties capable of taking votes away from us: the Smallholders [FKgP] and the SZDSZ. I feel that the Hungarian Socialist Party [MSZP] is less dangerous from this standpoint.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Why?
[Biro] Simply because they lack public support, and partly because people regard the MSZP as communist, the same way they regarded the MSZMP earlier.

[NEPSZABADSAG] The opposition is obviously pleased about this.
[Biro] The formula is far more complicated than that. There are real socialists in the West European sense, and there are some whose place would be in a "milder" MSZMP.

[NEPSZABADSAG] It is fashionable these days to whip the former MSZMP members. As a former party member, do you also blame yourself for the past 40 years?
[Biro] I do not blame myself at all. On the contrary, I have no feeling of shame at all. I would have accomplished far less had I not joined the party.

[NEPSZABADSAG] You say this in reference to your activities in public life, don't you? In those days you were a high-ranking official in a ministry.
[Biro] Yes, I have public life in mind.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Forgive me, but Istvan Csurka, one of your colleagues, makes far more pointed statements. Simply put: He does not distinguish between one or another kind of MSZMP member.
[Biro] Indeed, my friend Csurka periodically expresses himself in a raw fashion, but he does not quite mean what one senses in what he says.

[NEPSZABADSAG] But everyone cannot read his mind.
[Biro] It is rather the mood of his message that does not make sufficient distinction.

[NEPSZABADSAG] To put it mildly.
[Biro] This is the way Csurka says things. From time to time such pointed statements make sense; they are not always bad. Sometimes they are bad, of course. His radio note was misunderstood, for example, particularly with regard to the anti-Semitism that was attributed to him. The protection of the Hungarian identity is not synonymous with being against the Jews. Every nation has the right to care for its own identity.

[NEPSZABADSAG] And how about the Lenin boys mentioned in the note?
[Biro] Obviously, Csurka may have been thinking of a group within the SZDSZ which is characterized by an endeavor to achieve exclusivity, by a rough manner in fighting, by the constant organization of actions, by selfishness, by shocking people, and by disregarding the consequences of actions.

[NEPSZABADSAG] What do you mean by this?
[Biro] I mean that they want to become part of power, by any means. This is why they have stressed that they would be able to staff even two governments if it became necessary, whereas none of the parties would be able to form a good government on its own.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Well, well, not even the MDF?
[Biro] Not even we could. Right here and now not a single party has experience in governing.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Not too long ago several MDF leaders stated that the MSZP has no place in the new government. It seems as if you were somewhat forgetful, because several reformers played the role of the midwife, among them Imre Pozsgay, when the MDF was born in Lakitelek.
[Biro] In my mind, Pozsgay, Mihaly Bihari, and Csaba Gombar were not reform Communists.

[NEPSZABADSAG] What were they?
[Biro] They were democratic-minded people of the leftist persuasion who took a huge risk. Without them it would be difficult to think of the upcoming few years. The country would be poorer without them, even if at some level of politics they have to be disregarded.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Which parties are farthest from you?
[Biro] The SZDSZ and the MSZMP. The SZDSZ program intends to simply adopt a Western model—I don't even know what kind—for the country's economy. This could not be operational in Hungary. The other reason why we are far from them is their political mentality. We believe that the developmental path of a certain region in Central Europe cannot be identical with either the West European or the East European path. This is one reason why they say that we are middle-of-the-roaders. At the same time, paying attention to the national heritage does not mean nationalism, or anti-Semitism. They should show us a single sentence in our program which suggests this. Nor is the protection of minorities nationalism. If we have troubles with the SZDSZ, those troubles are not anti-Semitism, even if they suggest that they are.

* Elections: National Slates of Leading Parties

* Hungarian Democratic Forum

*25000671B Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian
1 Mar 90 p 5*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted]

1. Antall, Jozsef
2. Szentagothai, Janos
3. Fur, Lajos
4. Szabad, Gyorgy
5. Csurka, Istvan
6. Csengey, Denes
7. Konya, Mrs. Katalin Kutrucz
8. Raffay, Erno
9. Debreczeni, Jozsef
10. Kiraly, Zoltan
11. Bethlen, Istvan
12. Balsai, Istvan
13. Salamon, Laszlo
14. Csoti, Gyorgy
15. Keri, Kalman
16. Zimanyi, Tibor
17. Varga, Janos
18. Zetenyi, Zsolt
19. Gyarmati, Dezso
20. Grosics, Gyula
21. Banffy, Gyorgy
22. Roszik, Gabor
23. Zsigmond, Attila
24. Keresztes, Sandor
25. Kulin, Ferenc
26. Kozma, Huba
27. Szabo, Tamas
28. Reviczky, Adam
29. Filo, Katalin
30. Timko, Ivan
31. Dobozy, Daniel
32. Geher, Jozsef
33. Menczer, Gusztav
34. Kaas, Ervin
35. Breuer, Pal
36. Korosi, Imre
37. Lazar, Mrs. Tibor
38. Jeszenszky, Geza
39. Kodolanyi, Gyula
40. Gergely, Andras
41. Entz, Geza
42. Bod, Peter Akos
43. Posze, Lajos
44. Tottosi, Mrs. Istvan
45. Kovats, Ferenc
46. Ligeti, Imre
47. Javor, Bela
48. Joo, Rudolf
49. Kurucz, Gyula
50. Horvath, Sandor
51. Bene, Eva
52. Kovy, Zsolt
53. Szabo, Zoltan
54. Komaromi, Janos
55. Bacsi, Jozsef
56. Feher, Laszlo
57. Horvath, Lajos
58. Kerenyi, Imre
59. Pordany, Laszlo
60. Farkas, Gabriella
61. Bogdan, Emil
62. Magas, Laszlo
63. Bako, Lajos
64. Nyerges, Tibor
65. Csapo, Tamas
66. Adam, Karoly
67. Muller, Imre
68. Sz. Toth, Janos
69. Kincses, Gyula
70. Mednyanszky, Sandor

71. Mikulas, Ferenc
72. Raffay, Endre
73. Lada, Baling
74. Harmath, Mrs. Istvan
75. Horvath, Miklos
76. Varsanyi, Andras
77. Turi, Gabor
78. Szegka, Miklos
79. Csekey, Laszlo
80. Toth, Istvan
31. David, Ibolya
82. Toth, Tihamer
83. Palkovics, Imre
84. Csizmadia, Istvan
85. Marosi, Attila
86. Bajtai, Jozsef
87. Voroskoi, Istvan
88. Kovacs, Laszlo
89. Horvath, Zoltan
90. Daniel, Attila
91. Olajos, Csaba
92. Kariko, Balazs
93. Ikotity, Jozsef
94. Szauter, Rudolf
95. Fazakas, Almos
96. Simon, Sandor
97. Czako, Gabor
98. Denes, Janos
99. Czako, Imre
100. Ferencz, Csaba
101. Hajdu, Sandor
102. Levai, Jozsef
103. Marko, Istvan
104. Racz, Sandor
105. Botos, Katalin
106. Lakner, Zoltan
107. Fodor, Istvan
108. Katona, Kalman
109. Arva, Laszlo
110. Benko, Zoltan

* MSZMP Slate

25000671B Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 3 Mar 90 p 9

[Excerpt] [passage omitted]

1. Thurmer, Gyula
2. Nyiro, Sandor
3. Udvarhelyi, Laszlo
4. Koi, Tibor
5. Szollosi, Mrs. Eva Fitos
6. Pozsonyi, Attila
7. Vasas, Ioachim
8. Benke, Mrs. Valeria Kiss
9. Kollat, Pal
10. Hotya, Peter
11. Szucs, Ervin
12. Docze, Kalman
13. Pozderka, Mrs. Janos
14. Sztanko, Janos
15. Rapli, Pal
16. Banfai, Lajos
17. Varkoly, Zoltan
18. Pataki, Zsuzsanna
19. Fekete, Laszlo
20. Toth, Lajos
21. Beres, Sandor
22. Revesz, B. Gyorgy
23. Aggod, Mrs. Jozsef
24. Benyovszky, Gabor
25. Dauda, Sandor
26. Szilagyi, Tibor
27. Szabo, Imre
28. Legman, Gabor
29. Lukacs, Frigyes
30. Sajban, Peter
31. Toth, Mrs. Sandor
32. Ferencz, Mrs. Tibor
33. Vass, Jozsef
34. Elek, Mrs. Jozsef
35. Kovacs, Gyula
36. Kalman, Janos
37. Szalontai, Istvan
38. Balog, Mrs. Janos
39. Orosz, Janos
40. Rozsa, Jozsef
41. Zalai, Antal
42. Kertesz, Janos
43. Perjesi, Jozsef
44. Loy, Arpad
45. Sebok, Jozsef
46. Nagy, Lajos
47. Blaho, Istvan
48. Janosi, Gabor
49. Habakusz, Sandor
50. Fieszl, Jozsef
51. Horvath, Maria
52. Benko, Zoltan
53. Matocza, Zoltan
54. Eros, Jozsef
55. Hornyik, Laszlo
56. Horvath, Endre
57. Toke, Gyula
58. Czerna, Miklos
59. Babel, Erno
60. Varga, Janos

* Independent Smallholders

25000671B Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 3 Mar 90 p 9

[Excerpt] [passage omitted]

1. Voros, Vince
2. Balogh, Gyorgy
3. Torgyan, Jozsef
4. Bejczy, Sandor
5. Nagy, Ferenc
6. Borocz, Istvan
7. Kovats, Laszlo
8. Gerbovics, Jeno

9. Dragon, Pal
10. Ivan, Geza
11. Kosa, Andras
12. Kavassy, Sandor
13. Szabo, Lajos
14. Toth, Imre
15. Olah, Sandor
16. Bereczky, Vilmos
17. Nagy Varga, Dezso
18. Hajdu, Mrs. Istvan
19. Kapitany, Ferenc
20. Gyorivanyi, Sandor
21. Omolnar, Miklos
22. Lakatos, Mrs. Jozsef
23. Kis, Janos
24. Mizsei, Bela
25. Foris, Gabriella
26. Mikolay, Geza
27. Freisinger, Jeno
28. Kiss, Zoltan Sandor
29. Belafi, Antal
30. Kiss, Lajos
31. Berta, Sandor
32. Jaeger, Laszlo
33. Batari, Monika
34. Szogi, Imre
35. Bereczky, Mrs. Vilmos
36. Matolcsy, Karoly
37. Szarka, Jozsef
38. Safar, Pal
39. Folly, Gyula
40. Albert, Laszlo
41. Czifra, Laszlo
42. Kallo, Imre
43. Szabo, Sandor
44. Banfy, Sandor
45. Haeffler, Istvan
46. Bakos, Istvan
47. Nemeth, Bela
48. Hunya, Lajos
49. Kiss, Tibor
50. Heczey, Imre
51. Barta, Peter
52. Kalhammer, Matyas
53. Ronahaty, Istvan
54. Csontos, Miklos K.
55. Gyorgyi, Arpad
56. Papay, Jeno
57. Ivanyi, Attila

* FIDESZ Slate

25000671B Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 5 Mar 90 p 8

[Excerpt] [passage omitted]

1. Orban, Viktor
2. Fodor, Gabor
3. Szajer, Jozsef
4. Ader, Janos
5. Kover, Laszlo
6. Ungar, KLara
7. Trombitas, Zoltan
8. Nemeth, Zsolt
9. Varga, Mihaly
10. Rockenbauer, Zoltan
11. Glattfelder, Bela
12. Deutsch, Tamas
13. Tirts, Tamas
14. Molnar, Peter
15. Wachsler, Tamas
16. Szelenyi, Zsuzsanna
17. Kosa, Lajos
18. Hegedus, Istvan
19. Frajna, Imre
20. Madi, Laszlo
21. Sasvari, Szilard
22. Knapp, Janos Pal
23. Cseh, Gergo Benedek
24. Fulop, Zoltan
25. Barath, Gergely
26. Nemeth, Laszlo Akos
27. Deak, Zsolt
28. Szecsenyi, Mihaly
29. Gyori-Molnar, Lajos
30. Kovacs, Laszlo
31. Repassy, Robert
32. Szent-Kiralyi, Istvan
33. Sarkadi, Zsolt
34. Hertelendy, Laszlo
35. Pap, Janos
36. Lippai, Pal
37. Fazekas, Ferenc
38. Szabo, Zsuzsanna
39. Varhegyi, Attila
40. Kovacs, Janos
41. Kling, Jozsef
42. Durko, Karoly
43. Makai, Zoltan
44. Albert, Janos
45. Ruchti, Robert
46. Galavits, Ferenc
47. Bartok, Istvan
48. Nagy, Istvan
49. Galubeff, Robert
50. Toth, Tibor
51. Patonai, Peter
52. Levai, Aniko
53. Kaman, Laszlo
54. Stiedl, Gabor
55. Hartyanyi, Zsuzsa
56. Nagy, Gabor Tamas
57. Urban, Laszlo
58. Kerenyi, Gyorgy

* Elections: National Slate of MSZP Candidates

25000668A Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 24 Feb 90 p 5

[Text] The following is the national slate of Hungarian Socialist Party [MSZP] candidates for National Assembly representatives:

1. Pozsgay, Imre, state minister
2. Nyers, Rezso, party chairman
3. Horn, Gyula, foreign minister
4. Szuros, Dr. Matyas, provisional president of the republic
5. Nemeth, Miklos, prime minister
6. Petrenko, Janos, owner PEKO works, Ozd
7. Szili, Sandor, lathe operator, Budapest
8. Kosa, Ferenc, movie director
9. Ormos, Dr. Maria, university rector, Pecs
10. Hamori, Csaba, mechanical engineer, head of parliamentary party faction
11. Annus, Jozsef, editor in chief, TISZATAJ, Szeged
12. Vastagh, Dr. Pal, jurist, university lecturer, party secretary for the countryside
13. Vitanyi, Ivan, sociologist
14. Demeny, Pal, pensioner
15. Huszar, Dr. Tibor, academician
16. Pal, Laszlo, industry ministry state secretary
17. Kovacs, Jeno, economist
18. Nagy, Attila, actor and director, Kecskemet
19. Bekesi, Dr. Laszlo, finance minister
20. Kovacs, Dr. Magda, Mrs. KOSA, secretary of Coordinating Council, National Council of Trade Unions [SZOT]
21. Csehak, Dr. Judit, minister of social welfare and health
22. Kovacs, Laszlo, foreign ministry state secretary
23. Jakab, Mrs. Robert, National Assembly vice president, executive secretary for Democratic Alliance of Slovaks in Hungary
24. Gal, Dr. Zoltan, interior state secretary
25. Katona, Dr. Bela, engineer economist, Budapest party chairman
26. Lakos, Dr. Laszlo, producer cooperative president, Jaszkarajeno
27. Bossanyi, Katalin, deputy editor in chief, MAGYAR HIRLAP
28. Boros, Laszlo, foreman, Sopron
29. Vamos, Tibor, academician
30. Szantai Sarkozi, Ambrus, small tradesman, Budapest
31. Varga, Laszlo, teacher, county council chairman, Zalaegerszeg
32. Robert, Laszlo, journalist, Budapest
33. Janosi, Gyorgy, academy teacher, Szekszard
34. Perenyi, Eszter, violinist
35. Paszternak, Laszlo, executive secretary of Steelworkers Union
36. Peli, Tamas, artist, painter
37. Szucs, Julianna, editor in chief, MOZGO VILAG, aesthetician, Budapest
38. Szabo, Gyorgy, county council chairman, Miskolc
39. Deak, Dr. Peter, retired colonel
40. Reger, Antal, Hungarian Radio editor, vice chairman, Democratic Alliance of Germans in Hungary
41. Nagy, Imre, mathematician
42. Vass, Dr. Csaba, sociologist
43. Barics, Dr. Erno, university department head, south slavic studies, Pecs
44. Geczi, Dr. Jozsef, university adjunct professor, Szeged
45. Daroczy, Zoltan, university rector, Debrecen
46. Kiss, Peter, mechanical engineer, chairman Left Wing Youth Society, Budapest
47. Korosfoi, Laszlo, engineer and teacher, Godollo
48. Tabajdi, Csaba, deputy minister for nationalities affairs
49. Racz, Dr. Lidia, Mrs. Karasz, teacher, economist, Zalaegerszeg
50. Arpasi, Dr. Zoltan, agricultural engineer and journalist, Gyula
51. Keleti, Gyorgy, colonel, spokesman, Budapest
52. Marton, Frigyes, director, Budapest
53. Szekeres, Dr. Imre, chemical engineer, Veszprem
54. Mohacsi, Attila, Gypsy-worker branch, Budapest
55. Bokros, Lajos, Hungarian National Bank managing director
56. Fillo, Pal, printer, Budapest
57. Vanko, Magdolna, journalist, Budapest
58. Agh, Attila, political scientist, Budapest
59. Szokai, Imre, deputy foreign minister
60. Heil, Dr. Balint, university department head, Veszprem
61. Boldvai, Laszlo, economist, Salgotarjan
62. Roder, Richard, skilled worker, Biogal, Debrecen
63. Sardi, Arpad, industrial engineer, Kaposvar
64. Hernadi, Istvan, president of Hungarian State Railroads Miskolc directorate
65. Vass, Dr. Geza, jurist, Eger
66. Sziraki, Dr. Andras, president of Mezogep, Szolnok
67. Sikos, Dr. Laszlo, agricultural engineer, Szombathely
68. Temes, Dr. Judit, swimmer, olympic champion
69. Nagy, Laszlo, architect, Tatabanya
70. Csabai, Bela, president of VAEV-Bramac, Limited
71. Stipkovits, Dr. Ferenc, academy adjunct professor, Szombathely
72. Rajki, Mrs. Sandor, chemical engineer, Gyongyos
73. Kiss, Laszlo, mechanical engineer, Nyiregyhaza
74. Kiraly, Dr. Balint, high school principal, Kazincbarcika
75. De Sorgo, Dr. Tibor, enterprise president, Kaposvar
76. Radochay, Dr. Imre, district physician, Dombovar
77. Hideg, Andras, economist, Bekescsaba
78. Varhalmi, Miklos, entrepreneur, Baja
79. Siraly, Dr. Peter, chief physician, Csakvar
80. Molnar, Janos, producer cooperative president, Tiszagyulahaza
81. Rozgonyi, Dr. Jozsef, high school principal, Salgotarjan
82. Talosi, Janos, entrepreneur
83. Csikos, Sandor, actor, Nyiregyhaza
84. Giba, Istvan, high school principal, Cegled
85. Haller, Dr. Zoltan, attorney, Esztergom
86. Szekelyhidi, Istvan, auto mechanic, Mosonmagyarovar

87. Kapas, Zsolt, mechanical engineer, Dunaujvaros
88. Varga Kovacs, Karoly, miner
89. Danyi, Jozsef, entrepreneur, Tiszafured
90. Halasz, Anna, Mrs. NOVAK, industrial engineer, Szeged
91. Puch, Laszlo, General Consumer and Marketing Cooperative president, Boly
92. Kerekgyarto, Ildiko, Mrs. VARGA, lathe operator, Miskolc
93. Nagy, Dr. Jozsef, director and chief physician, Hajdunanas
94. Kisterenyei, Ervin, artist and painter, Hatvan
95. Schukmann, Dr. Tamas, bank president, Marcali
96. Monostori, Ildiko, pharmacist, Budapest
97. Szujko, Margit, high school principal, Siklos
98. Simon, Dr. Imre, scientific researcher, Bekescsaba
99. Bubla, Gyula, industrial engineer, Budapest
100. Bako, Dr. Ferenc, department head and docent, Gyor
101. Csige, Jozsef, high school principal, Balmazujvaros
102. Banati, Andras, producer cooperative president, Nagykata
103. Rosa, Geza, department head, Paks Nuclear Plant
104. Herbaly, Imre, producer cooperative president, Kenderes
105. Juhasz, Laszlo, General Consumer and Marketing Cooperative president, Csongrad
106. Kiss, Dr. Huba, physician, Komlo
107. Nemeth, Karoly, specialized cooperative president, Cigand
108. Asztalos, Istvan, high school teacher, Veszprem
109. Racz, Pal, presidium member, Gypsy Association, Kecskemet
110. Csizmadia, Dr. Laszlo, attorney, Szekesfehervar
111. Janky, Dr. Bela, chief physician, Bekes
112. Varga, Lajos, traffic engineer, director of Hungarian State Railroads Dunakeszi repair plant
113. Szabadkai, Dr. Jozsef, jurist, Sarbogard
114. Nikolits, Istvan, deputy president, MUSZI
115. Kelen, Dr. Laszlo, jurist and academy adjunct professor, Budapest
116. Marosi, Istvan, managing president, Ozd Foundry Workers SE [not further identified]

Mazowiecki Arrives in U.S., Meets President Bush

LD2103172690 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1700 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Premier Tadeusz Mazowiecki, who is on a six-day visit to the United States, has been received in the White House in Washington by President George Bush. The main topic of the two politicians' discussion, first and foremost, was developments in Europe, the issue of German unification within the context of European security, as well as issues of Polish-U.S. relations.

The Polish premier also is to hold talks with members of the U.S. Government and the congressmen.

'Right To Be Heard' Acknowledged

LD2203091490 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 0530 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] "America is willing to help Poland in achieving success;" President George Bush said, welcoming Premier Tadeusz Mazowiecki in the White House gardens. He also said that Poland must have the right to be heard on all decisions concerning her fate.

Replying to the welcoming speech, Premier Mazowiecki stated that he believes that this current meeting with the United States will strengthen Poland.

President Bush and Premier Mazoweicki put their signatures to the trade and economic relations treaty, which opens the way for U.S. private investment in Poland.

Skubiszewski Visits Luxembourg, Signs Accord

LD2103053690 Warsaw PAP in English 2310 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Luxembourg, March 19—Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs Krzysztof Skubiszewski arrived here today for a two-day official visit.

Skubiszewski held a meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg Jacques Poos followed by plenary talks between both delegations.

Minister Skubiszewski met also with representatives of the Chamber of Deputies headed by Deputy Speaker Carlo Meintz.

In the evening Jacques Poos gave an official dinner in honour of the Polish guest.

Both ministers signed an agreement on cultural and scientific cooperation between Poland and Luxembourg.

Meets Grand Duke

LD2103160790 Warsaw PAP in English 2210 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Luxembourg-Ville, March 20:—Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs Krzysztof Skubiszewski was received here today by the Grand Duke of Luxembourg Jean on the second and last day of his visit to this country.

Skubiszewski-Santer Talks

Earlier, Skubiszewski held a more than an hour talk with Prime Minister Jacques Santer. Premier Santer expressed full support for the process of transformations taking place in Poland, and first of all for Poland's active foreign policy. He highly assessed Poland's planned participation in the two-plus-four conference on the unification of Germany.

Luxembourg's prime minister recognized Poland's thesis, on the necessity to guarantee the lasting character of Poland's border as fully justified.

Premier Santer stated that Luxembourg wishes to contribute to the rapprochement of Poland to the European Community. In this context, he stressed that his country will chair over the EEC as of January 1, 1991.

The prime minister of Luxembourg accepted with satisfaction an invitation to pay a visit to Poland which, on behalf of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, was presented to him by Minister Skubiszewski. It it expected that the visit will take place still this year, before the start of Luxembourg's chairmanship over the EEC.

The two also exchanged information on bilateral and international relations. Both sides' opinion on all discussed issues were very close and very convergent.

Skubiszewski's Meeting With Representatives of Mass Media

The second day of Skubiszewski's visit to Luxembourg opened with a joint breakfast with representatives of local mass media.

Asked whether he was satisfied with the latest west German declarations concerning borders, Minister Skubiszewski replied: It is a step forward, but it is not enough. We need to solve this in a treaty, a bilateral or a multilateral treaty.

According to Minister Skubiszewski the road from the planned association of Poland with the EEC to its membership in it will be a long one. It may take even 10 years. The basic condition will be the adjustment of Poland's economy.

Asked to present his opinion on the future of military blocks, Skubiszewski said in part: I think, that in 10 years we will have a well functioning system of security in Europe. Then both alliances would not be needed. Currently NATO guarantees American presence in Europe, which in our opinion is an important factor of stability, especially in light of the German unification.

Minister Skubiszewski in Belgium

On Tuesday evening Poland's Foreign Minister Kryzsztof Skubiszewski started an official visit to Belgium.

The first round of plenary talks was held and then Belgium's Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens gave an official dinner in honour of the Polish guest.

The Belgian side expressed satisfaction at Poland's participation in the two-plus-four talks on Germany unity. It was considered a great success of Poland.

A broad exchange of views, lasting for over an hour, showed considerable convergence of opinions on numerous questions, including those connected with Germany unification.

Plenary talks are to be continued on Wednesday.

Radio, TV Chairman Signs Agreement With Latvia

LD2103222390 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1300 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] The chairpersons of the Radio and Television Affairs Committees of Poland and Latvia, Andrzej Drawicz and Janis Leja, have signed an agreement on cooperation between the radio and television organizations of both states. It envisages the exchange of programs illustrating the transformations in both countries and also relating to cultural issues. Soon, said Andrzej Drawicz, the first programs presenting Latvia will appear on our television. Kozakiewicz, the chairperson of the Union of Poles in Latvia, the organization representing the 60,000 strong Polish community in that country, also took part in the signing ceremony.

First Joint Venture With Japan Expected in May

OW2203054390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0511 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Warsaw, March 21 KYODO—The first Japan-Poland joint venture—a glassmaking project reportedly involving investment totaling 150 million dollars—is expected to materialize as early as May, a Polish government official said Wednesday.

Wlodzimierz Chodzko, vice director at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Cooperation, told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that a Polish glass maker, Sandomierz, is poised to reach a definitive agreement with Asahi Glass Co. and Toyo Menka Kaisha Ltd. on the project.

The agreement will follow final negotiations expected in May among the Polish firm, Asahi officials, and International Finance Corp. (IFC), an affiliate of the World Bank, which will cofinance the joint venture, he said.

The joint venture, will be capitalized at about 45 million dollars, 51 percent of which will be contributed by Asahi Glass, Toyo Menka, and the IFC.

The new company plans to build a manufacturing plant on land owned by the Polish firm about 200 kilometers south of Warsaw, and to turn out about 2.5 million 50-kilogram cases of float glass annually.

Chodzko also said the Polish Government proposed to Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu during his visit to Warsaw in January to set up a joint consulting company aimed at boosting joint ventures and investment in both countries.

Kaifu gave a positive response to the idea, he said.

Government Gives 14 Mar News Conference

AU2003173390 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 15 Mar 90 pp 1, 3

[Jan Forowicz report: "The Performance Record Is Not Bad"]

[Text] Malgorzata Niezabitowska, government press spokeswoman, and Marek Dabrowski, secretary of state in the Ministry of Finance, met with journalists on 14 March.

The Premier's Visit to the United States and Canada

The spokesman said that Tadeusz Mazowiecki will be visiting the United States on 20 March, and Canada on 27 March. The program includes meetings with President Bush, Vice President Quayle, senior officials of the U.S. Administration, members of Congress, U.S. businessmen, representatives of the Polish community, and leaders of Jewish organizations. One can expect the premier's U.S. talks to have a very broad scope. He will report on the situation in Poland and the changes in Central and East Europe. He will discuss problems stemming from German unification, and will also touch upon bilateral political and economic issues. One of the topics the Polish side wishes to discuss is a more liberal U.S. visa policy for Polish citizens. Right now, about 60 percent of the applications for U.S. visas are being rejected.

Soviet Forces in Poland

In accordance with the decisions reached by the National Defense Committee, M. Niezabitowska said, talks are due to begin on the status of the Soviet military units stationed in Poland. These talks will cover two aspects: the burden on local residents posed by some units, especially Air Force units; and the conditions governing the stationing of Soviet forces and the expenses incurred by them. These talks, between government plenipotentiaries, and attended by Foreign Ministry representatives, will commence shortly. In addition, Poland is presenting its own proposals, to be presented at the Vienna talks, concerning a total withdrawal of Soviet forces within the context of the new system of European security.

Implementation of the Government Economic Program

Five months have just elapsed since the publication of the government economic program, said M. Dabrowski. As far as institutional changes are concerned, the record of government economic moves is not bad. New customs regulations have been introduced, and tax rules have been considerably modified. A bill on income tax from private individuals and a bill on value- added tax will soon appear. Work on amending the budget law and new rules on the financing of local government bodies is continuing.

The Antimonopolistic Practices Act will come into effect on 15 April, M. Dabrowski continued. However, many economic units have already been distributed. The process of privatization has also begun. It ought to be noted that the division of large enterprises is considered to be the first step toward privatization. This applies particularly to transportation and trade enterprises.

M. Dabrowski denied rumors about increases in energy prices and transportation fares.

Journalists from Polish radio and from the NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG wanted to know what the personnel monitoring the implementation of the Balcerowicz economic plan thought about alternative economic solutions, such as the broadly publicized treatise produced by the Polish Socialist Party—"Rebirth."

M. Dabrowski replied: For the time being there is no sign of alternative programs. There is no other program that deals with macroeconomic policy comprehensively or that fully assesses the costs of proposed solutions.

GAZETA BANKOWA: In March, workers were paid bonuses out of profits. Will this mass of money not cause inflation to jump?

Minister Dabrowski said: The stabilization program takes into account the increased payouts in March. Apart from an increase in goods purchases, one can also expect more money to be deposited into the General Savings Bank. The latest Polish National Bank data shows that society is investing surplus money with increasing frequency.

STANCZYK: What can you say about the way in which enterprises pay out dividends?

Dabrowski said: There is no data available yet. However, one can expect that after the first quarter, enterprises may experience the first wave of a financial crisis, caused by the need to pay these dividends into the budget.

A PAP journalist asked Malgorzata Niezabitowska for the latest information on respecting the rights of the German minority in Poland.

Niezabitowska: As the statement by Premier T. Mazowiecki and Chancellor H. Kohl says, associations of ethnic minorities have been guaranteed the right to foster their culture, language, and learning. Following the registration of two German associations, three more have appeared (in Gogolin, Czestochowa, and Katowice), and another association in Gdansk is waiting for registration. As far as teaching the German language is concerned, the only trouble is a shortage of—German teachers. The FRG authorities have been asked to help in this matter.

We do not want to conclude any separate treaty governing our conduct vis-a-vis German minorities. However, we will guide ourselves by the provisions of international law, the Human and Civic Rights Charter, and the CSCE Final Act. Another reason why special treaties do not interest us is because experience tells us that they quickly become the object of unnecessary political contests.

During Minister Skubiszewski's latest talks with Mr. Genscher, adherence to the Mazowiecki-Kohl decisions concerning the German minority was considered positive.

Radio France Internationale: Under what conditions could Poland recognize Lithuania's independence?

Niezabitowska: Our position was contained in the Polish Government statement last Monday. This statement is very favorable toward our neighbor. However, it is too early for any more undertakings on our part.

This topic was continued by a GAZETA WYBORCZA journalist, who asked if Moscow had been consulted following the issue of the Polish Government statement on Lithuania, and whether this had anything to do with Poland's efforts to take part in the two-plus-four conference on German unification. The spokesman replied: There were no consultations.

PALESTINIAN PRESS AGENCY: What will Premier Mazowiecki discuss with the Jewish organization during his U.S. visit?

Niezabitowska: The premier has been granted an award by Jewish organizations. During the award ceremony, he will deliver a speech on Polish-Jewish relations. No other talks are foreseen.

DIE PRESSE: A representative of the Israeli authorities has suggested that Warsaw's Okecie Airport should process Jews leaving the USSR en route to Israel. Has the government adopted a position on this matter?

M. Niezabitowska said: There have not been any concrete talks, but we are open to suggestions like this.

Soviet Military TV To Air Election Programs

AU2003193690 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 5 Mar 90 p 3

[Unsigned report: "Torun Agreement"]

[Text] Talks have ended in Torun on the use of a television transmitter located at a Soviet military base during the local government election campaign.

Torun Voivodship will be given daily airtime from 1600 to 1715. Material can be broadcast by all social organizations, associations, and movements that act in accordance with the law of the Polish Republic and are taking part in the elections.

Every such organization will be given 10 minutes of free airtime a week, but will have to pay for additional time. It will be possible to start broadcasting election material on 15 March. The Torun Voivodship press spokesman has been made responsible for allocating airtime and organizing the transmission of material.

The transmitter can also be used for relaying satellite television programs. The Soviet side has proposed three periods during which such programs could be transmitted: 1000 to 1400; 1600 to 1800; and 2400 to 0500.

Party Committees Denounce Draft Laws on Ownership

LD2103001390 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1700 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] The Supreme Council of the Polish Socialist Party, Democratic Revolution, and the Provisional National Committee of the Polish Socialist Party have issued a statement in which they demand that the Sejm and Senate reject the packet of laws being prepared by the government plenipotentiary for ownership transformations and that the government sack the whole office of the plenipotentiary. The signatories of the statement feel that the drafts of these laws merely serve the subjugation of working people and are a strightforward consequence of the moves of the government of Mieczyslaw Rakowski.

Mazowiecki Publishes Local Elections Regulations

LD2103051990 Warsaw PAP in English 2228 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Warsaw, March 19—Premier Tadeusz Mazowiecki published today regulations on the elections to rural district councils to be held on May 27.

The elections schedule envisages that by April 7 Electoral commissioners, to be appointed by April 2, will set the number of councillors for each rural district.

In the same time regulations on free access to the radio and television by parties, political groupings, citizens' committees and other organizations supporting candidates will be made public.

By April 12 published will be numbers and borders of constituencies and the number of councillors to be elected in them.

District electoral commissions are to be set up by April 22 while candidates for councillors may be put forward in territorial commissions by April 27. Their lists are to be published by May 2.

Also today the premier received Jerzy Stepien whom he appointed general electoral commissioner.

Interior Minister Announces Personnel Changes

LD2103052190 Warsaw PAP in English 2235 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Warsaw, March 19—The spokesman for the Ministry of Internal Affairs announced today that the interior minister dismissed from service at their own request and retired the following officers:

Head of the voivodship militia headquarters in the northern town of Elblag, Colonel Jerzy Wieckowski and his deputy Colonel Bogdan Scislek, head of the voivodship militia headquarters in Kielce (central Poland), Colonel Jozef Dolak and his deputy, Colonel Jerzy Dirnbach, deputy cheif of the voivodship militia headquarters in the south-eastern town of Przemsyl, Colonel Antoni Jodlowski, head of the voivodship militia headquarters in the south-eastern city of Rzeszow, Colonel Jozef Kierat, deputy chief of the voivodship militia headquarters in the north-western city of Szczecin, Colonel Czeslaw Zuziak, deputy chiefs of the Warsaw militia headquarters, Colonels Stefan Osapinski, Wladyslaw Prekurat and Kondrad Jedrzejczyk.

Two Socialist Parties To Enter Elections Jointly

LD2103053390 Warsaw PAP in English 2240 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Warsaw, March 19—The Main Council of the Polish Socialist Party-Democratic Revolution (PPS-RD) and the Provisional National Committee of the Polish Socialist Party (TKK PPS) decided today that the two parties would jointly enter elections to self-governments and make their own electoral list.

The two socialist parties are coming out in favour of a radical reform of self-governmental system and holding elections to the parliament immediately after the end of elections to self-governments.

The PPS-RD main council and TKK PPS issued a statement in which they welcomed with joy the establishing of an independent Lithuanian state and demanded so that the Polish Government immediately and formally recognize the Lithuanian republic.

Council Adopts Stand on PZPR Property

LD2103055290 Warsaw PAP in English 0001 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Warsaw, March 19—At its meeting here today headed by Premier Tadeusz Mazowiecki the Council of Ministers discussed the situation in agriculture seeking immediate ways to counteract negative trends in farming.

Among reasons for socio-economic tensions in the country underlined was a drop in profitability of farming caused by the necessary rigours in fighting inflation.

The Council of Ministers got acquainted with the information on activity of the counterpart fund formed from the financial means gained from sales of the EC food donations.

The Council of Ministers was briefed on the hitherto course and results of the work of the government commission for settling the legal status of property of political parties and youth organizations and adopted a stand proposed by the commission which includes the following decisions:

1. All buildings and offices built by the State Treasury or on grounds belonging to it are to be handed over to the State Treasury. The hitherto administrative allotments are withdrawn.

2. The archives of the former Polish United Workers Party [PZPR] are to be taken over by the state archives network in tune with the valid regulations.

3. By virtue of new administrative decisions the Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland [Social Democracy of the Polish Republic] [SDRP] is to receive offices of the space of some 150 to 350 square metres.
4. Buildings and offices which are unquestionable former PUWP [PZPR] property are to remain in the SDRP hands.

The Council of Ministers adopted a draft law on the liquidation of the RSW "Praska-Ksiazka-Ruch" publishing cooperative.

New Chiefs for Wroclaw, Koszalin Radios Named

LD2103174290 Warsaw PAP in English
0006 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Wroclaw, March 20—Lothar Herbst, a scholar at the Wroclaw University, writer and journalist, has been appointed to the post of editor-in-chief of the Polish radio station here.

The post of editor-in-chief of the Polish radio station in Koszalin has been taken over by "Solidarnosc" and municipal citizen's committee activist and journalist Wieslaw Romanowski.

Transylvanian Ethnic Tensions Intensify in Mures

Spokesman Denies 'State of Emergency'

LD2103122790 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Minutes before our broadcast, (Elemer Ekler) telephoned Gyoergy Keleti, spokesman for the Defense Ministry. Here follows a quick assessment:

[Begin recording] [Keleti] I should like to say that five minutes ago, the Romanian defense minister telephoned Ferenc Karpati.

[Ekler] Yes?

[Keleti] He gave the information that the Romanian Government and the Romanian Army are doing their utmost to change the current, tense situation, so that normal life can be restored. This applies primarily to Tirgu Mures.

[Ekler] What new information could you tell us?

[Keleti] A government commission was created yesterday. This government commission went to Tirgu Mures, and a member of it is General (Escimescu), deputy Romanian chief of staff, who is at the scene directing measures that are now indispensible for the Army. General Stanculescu informed Frenc Karpati that soldiers had surrounded the public buildings in Tirgu Mures. Identity checks are under way, and they are doing their utmost to create a normal situation.

At the same time, to a question from Ferenc Karpati that reports had spread that a state of emergency had been introduced, the reply was that there is no state of emergency, either in Tirgu Mures or in the country. In this regard, the government has not taken any measures, so this report, or rumor, does not accord with reality.

[Ekler] So this information is recent?

[Keleti] I am saying this on the basis of a conversation five minutes ago. I am reading from my notebook. [end recording

Magyars Claim Misrepresentation

LD2103125590 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Excerpts] A state of emergency has been introduced in the region of Tirgu Mures, and there is already a bread shortage there. Otto Oltvanyi reports from Bucharest:

[Begin Oltvanyi recording] The situation remains extremely tense in Tirgu Mures. According to some reporters, further military units have been sent to the region. This accords with the announcement by Defense Minister Stanculescu, that the Army will defend the country's security and order.

According to the most recent reports, parachutists from Oltenia have been deployed in Tirgu Mures. Police reinforcements are arriving from Bistrita. There is a bread shortage in the city, because the bakery workers are on strike.

At 1100 this morning, several shops on the main square were closed. The windows of the headquarters of the Vatra Romaneasca organization were smashed. At present, four tanks can be seen in front of the council headquarters. A helicopter is circling above the city.

Reports are coming in of work stoppages in County Covasna. In County Hargita, on the main square, in Miercurea Ciuc on the main square, a crowd is demonstrating; it is demanding that those reponsible for the massacre in Tirgu Mures be punished.

Demonstrators appeared in Victoria Square in Bucharest in the morning. This was a small, 50-strong group which chanted the demands of the Romanians in Tirgu Mures, shouting: The Romanians in Tirgu Mures are in danger.

Shortly before this program was broadcast, a group of university students marched by the building of the Hungarian Embassy in Bucharest, with the slogan "We shall not hand over Transylvania." [passage omitted]

A fresh report from Tirgu Mures says that the Mures County organization of the Democratic Association of Magyars in Romania is asking for international observers in the city immediately, because the Romanian media are completely misinforming the country's Romanian population, they are falsifying the facts, they are presenting the developments as if they had been initiated from Hungary. [end recording]

Radio Comments on Causes

LD2103133190 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Speculation has been rife for days about the motivation behind the fighting in Romania? Before 0800 this morning, Jozsef Orosz telephoned Sandor Gaspar, head of the Tirgu Mures Magyar radio. We now broadcast his assessment:

[Begin recording] [Gaspar] Nearly everyone places responsibility for the events on Vatra Romaneasca. In my opinion, much more involved are those who on 22 December suddenly lost their privileged situation, and whose sole chance is to destabilize the country, to create a situation in which it is necessary to appeal for the assistance of the former experts.

[Orosz] According to some reports, the Securitate and Ceausescu had a so-called zero plan, one of whose features was that the Magyars would be deployed to upset order, thus, to destabilize the country; that is, the Magyars would be the targets, and attacks would be organized against them. What is your opinion on this?

[Gaspar] I consider this believable, since there were many attempts to present the Magyars as the cause of the difficult economic situation prevailing in the country. A

scapegoat must always be found, and when there is historical tension, naturally it is very easy to realize this, in practice. Otherwise, I do not know anything specific about this plan.

[Orosz] Mr. Gaspar, do you consider it conceivable that extremist chauvinist elements might obtain weapons, since up to now it has not been clear whether or not the police and the Army are standing their ground, and what their relationship is to the actions?

[Gaspar] I do not believe that they could obtain weapons from civilian sources without official assent and authorization. [end recording]

Pastor Describes Dawn Scene

LD2103141190 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Istvan Geczi, Reformed Church pastor, from Debrecen radio [as heard], returned from Romania this morning. He brought recordings with him. (Karoly Kazinczky) speaks with the pastor.

[Begin recording] [Kazinczky] At exactly what time were you on the main square?

[Geczi] Today is Wednesday. At 0500 we left Tirgu Mures.

[Kazinczky] What was happening there, then?

[Geczi] At that time, troops were coming in, and we counted 16 trucks full of soldiers, they were led by armored troops and tanks.

[Kazinczky] Was there still a crowd?

[Geczi] There was an enormous number of people on the square.

[Kazinczky] Was this recording made at 0500?

[Geczi] It was made between 0100 and 0500. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Army Forces Take Over

LD2103152990 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1500 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] [Announcer] Here is the situation report by Otto Oltvanyi from Tirgu Mures:

[Oltvanyi] In Tirgu Mures the military forces have taken over the direction of the town. Before the crowd assembled on the main square, speeches were delivered by the officers. The Army has called on those involved in the confrontation to show patience and understanding, and to disperse.

Eloed Kincses, deputy chairman of the county committee of the National Unity Council, also addressed the assembled people. He too called for calm. The Army leaders are proposing that the leaders of the political organizations and associations should begin discussions and settle the existing problems.

In spite of this, the situation in the town is extremely tense. Not only in Tirgu Mures but also in Mures County the factories are at a standstill; a strike has begun. This strike is aimed at supporting the demands of the Magyar national minority. As we know, the Democratic Association of Magyars in Romania county organization is demanding that the authorities find out who were the members of the chauvinist nationalist organization Vatra Romaneasca, who incited arriving villagers to beat and punch the Magyars.

In the residential districts the mood is beginning to heat up; the people of Vatra have transferred their assembly venues there. On the other hand, the Army units are for the time being assuring public order only in the town center.

According to the latest information, two of those who died in yesterday's clash have been identified. The 64 year-old (Antal Ciriak) and 41 year-old (Istvan Gemes) lost their lives.

Troops Separate Demonstrators

AU2103173890 Paris AFP in English 1524 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Bucharest, March 21 (AFP)—Several thousand people traded insults across a cordon of soldiers Wednesday in Tirgu Mures, central Romania where two days of clashes between Romanians and ethnic Hungarians have left six dead and 300 injured, according to witnesses. Romanian and Hungarian demonstrators, whose numbers had swollen to between 5,000 and 6,000 at mid-morning, faced each other on the central square of Tirgu Mures as soldiers strove to keep the two sides from coming to blows. Local people said the two crowds had so far confined themselves to shouting slogans and insults and that no violence had taken place. [passage omitted]

Some 300 people needed medical treatment for injuries sustained in clashes Monday and Tuesday and 69 were admitted to hospital. Between 30 and 40 people were listed as "very badly hurt", a local hospital official said.

A British photographer, Kevin Harvey, working for Associated Press was beaten up and his equipment was smashed. Two other photographers also said they had been brutalized by Romanian nationalists who appeared to bear a grudge against the press in general. [passage omitted]

Witnesses said many shops were damaged in the rioting. Several, including one restaurant at least, were ransacked completely.

The city police chief, Colonel Gambra, said thousands of ethnic Hungarians had gone on the rampage in the town center. Witnesses said rioters were armed with axes, iron bars, stones and sticks. According to police the clashes

involved 10,000 to 12,000 ethnic Hungarians and about 3,000 Romanians, but it was not known to which side the dead and injured belonged.

In Bucharest, the Executive Bureau of the ruling Provisional Council of National Union (PCNU) postponed until late afternoon a special session on the ethnic clashes. The meeting, initially scheduled for Wednesday morning was the second in two days. A "government commission" appointed by the PCNU was due to leave Wednesday on a fact-finding mission to establish the causes of the ethnic friction and "propose solutions". It has 14 days in which to present its report to the PCNU.

Romanian nationalists fear that Hungarian demands for more autonomy could spark a separatist movement in Transylvania, Romania's richest province. Budapest controlled Transylvania before World War I. In a statement read out on television, the government said it would "take firm steps to see that the law was respected and order maintained" in Transylvania.

Members of the Hungarian minority interviewed by telephone, said the Magyar community welcomed the Army intervention because, they said, the local police had done nothing to protect them from Romanian "extremists". It was the Army which organized the evacuation on Monday of ethnic Hungarians from the headquarters of the Magyar Democratic Union of Romania after Romanian nationalists attacked the building, the sources said. [passage omitted]

The Romanian government has still not responded officially to accusations from Hungary of "atrocities" and "pogroms" against ethnic Hungarians on the part of Romanian nationalist militants. [passage omitted]

Students Support Romanians

AU2103183990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1803 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 21/3/1990—More than 2,000 students and teaching staff of Bucharest took part on Wednesday [21 March] in a march expressing their support to the Romanians in Transylvania, to Romania's territorial unity.

The students walked in order to the Embassy of the Hungarian Republic in Bucharest in the front of which they stopped for several minutes chanting "We die, we fight, but we do not give up Transylvania", "We are not chauvinistic", "Unity".

On their way to the television studios, the terminal point of their peaceful march, the students stopped for several minutes in front of the headquarters of Romania's Government where they chanted the same slogans, which they actually chanted all the time.

Demands Made in Support of Magyars

LD2103184390 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] [Announcer] We begin our detailed report with Otto Oltvanyi's dispatch from Bucharest.

[Oltvanyi] In spite of the fact that military forces are stationed in the main square of Tirgu Mures, the opposing sides are also present. The Romanian group is loud and is demonstrating; the Magyar population, in compliance with the appeal of the military leaders, has moved somewhat to one side.

The Mures County Committee of the National Unity council has demanded that by 1500 the town's inhabitants should stop the marches and disperse, but this has not yet happened.

In the meantime, in the town hall, the government committee is in session which in the next few days will have to submit a report and a proposal about the situation, about the investigation and the revelation of the causes which sparked off the events.

The demands of the people of Tirgu Mures, for the restoration of Hungarian mother-tongue teaching and the guaranteeing of nationality rights, are being supported in other regions as well. In Sfintu Gheorghe, with the participation of Magyars and Romanians, a 25,000 strong mass rally was held and they assured the Magyar inhabitants of the closed-off town of their support.

Miercurea Ciuc was the scene of a similar mass rally this afternoon, where 35,000 took part. Here they announced that in Hargita County a general strike had begun and a delegation handed over their petition to Petre Roman,the Romanian prime minister in Bucharest.

In this they ask the government to immediately examine the bloody developments of Tirgu Mures and to punish the organizers of the Romanian groups who were set off from the villages, and to outlaw the nationalist chauvinist Vatra Romanesca organization. They demand from the government that it give true information about the situation, because of false press reports, which do not accord with the facts and which unjustly besmirch the Magyar nationality, having the effect of inciting the Romanian population.

Responsibility for this lies not only with the government but also with the Provisional National Unity Council, which is contributing to the unjustified accusations. As long as the demands are not fulfilled, the strikes will be continued and spread further. Thus, Covasna and Mures Counties have already joined the general strike.

Commission Investigates Unrest

AU2103192590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1801 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 21/3/1990—The special commission appointed by the Executive Bureau of the

Provisional National Unity Council [PNUC] started its activity in the city of Tirgu Mures on 21 March. Together with local authorities it surveys the situation created in the wake of the events there. On the basis of its mandate the commission conducts an inquiry into the facts occurred these last few days to draw accurate conclusions with full knowledge of the case, to make the adequate proposals.

This morning too, groups of Romanians as well as of citizens of Hungarian nationality demonstrated in the central zone of the city. The presence of the forces of order—made up of policemen and military—seems to have had a positive influence deterring attempts at disorder and confrontation.

In the interest of re-establishing calm and returning to a normal life, the Executive Bureau of the Mures County National Unity Council made a solemn appeal to all the inhabitants of the county.

Kiraly Claims 'State of Civil War'

LD2103194290 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Excerpt] [Announcer] Now Peter Heltai talks to Karoly Kiraly, deputy chairman of the Provisional National Council. The first question refers to the danger of the situation.

[Kiraly] The dangerous situation derives from the fact that the sides are mobilizing against each other. To my knowledge there is by now some gathering of this kind in Bucharest as well, and this can only be resolved in one way: with decisive government measures that put a stop to the nationalist propaganda, the chauvinist politics. Violence must definitely be met with violence—what I mean is [words indistinct]. The task of the minorities, and their important responsibility, is to strive to avoid provocation. Let us not give cause, because here the tools of information are still misleading the people, or rather not the tools, but those who provide the news. Under the so-called democracy false news is appearing. So, that is more or less the situation.

[Heltai] So this means that there is virtually a state of civil war?

[Kiraly] Yes, locally that is so; it is definitely the case in Tirgu Mures. The main problem lies in preventing it from spreading, or involving something bigger, because as a matter of fact something bigger will follow—the country's destabilization in general. Since the election campaign also began today, these things will be irresponsibly used for election propaganda here, unfortunately, by certain parties and organizations. It seems that if we do not manage to put a stop to it, then these ballot papers will be stamped with blood. [passage omitted]

Magyars Appeal to UN for Help

LD2103194990 Budapest MTI in English 1804 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Budapest, March 21 (MTI)—"The Hungarian community of Tirgu Mures can no longer withstand the attacks made by superior numbers. They are convinced that the Army will not take their side and that they are doomed to death. Therefore, the Hungarian community in Tirgu Mures appeals for help to the United Nations Organization, Hungary and all the nations of the world."

This dramatic message was passed on to MTI's Debrecen correspondent by Istvan Geczy, reformed priest, and a Transylvanian theologist on Wednesday afternoon, after they had returned from a good-will mission to Tirgu Mures.

The reformed priests said that on arriving in Tirgu Mures on Tuesday around midnight, they had found the streets covered with broken glass two-three centimetres thick, seen burnt-out buses and trucks, and, in the town's main square, a crowd armed with rods, chains and pitchforks. There were about twenty tanks around.

The priests also said that the Hungarian community's first violent response to violence came on Tuesday afternoon. Previously, the Hungarian community had preserved its calm. On hearing, however, that six of them had already been killed, all hell broke loose.

The priests said the Army seemed to be a passive observer, making no move whatsoever to defend the Hungarian community.

The Romanians had been transported in coaches and trucks from nearby Romanian settlements. No Hungarians were, however, allowed in the town. There was a rumour that should the situation not ease during this week, 40,000 Hungarians would set out to Tirgu Mures from the area.

Government Releases Declaration

AU2103201590 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1800 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] In connection with events that recently took place in certain parts of northern Romania, the Romanian Government declares the following:

Our country's population has followed with concern the serious events which began on 15 March 1990 in a number of localities in Transylvania, events which culminated in the violent manifestations in Tirgu Mures Municipality. The Romanian Government believes that a correct and objective assessment of the situation can only result from exact knowledge of the sequence of events.

On the 142d anniversary of the 1848 revolution in Budapest, the Hungarian Republic authorities asked the Romanian authorities to allow the Hungarian ambassador to Bucharest and his closest aides to lay wreaths at

the statues of Nicolae Balcescu and Sandor Petofi, outstanding personalities of the aforementioned event, in Miercurea Ciuc, Cristuru Secuiesc, Tirgu Mures, and Albesti. The Romanian authorities ensured the necessary conditions for these ceremonies.

Unfortunately, the Romanian Government's declaration states, this anniversary moment was misused by Hungarian Republic citizens, who crossed the border en masse on 15 March into Romania. In many Romanian localities, including Satu Mare, Tirgu Mures, and Sovata, they ostentatiously displayed Hungarian state symbols, proceeded to replace signs of localities having Romanian names, and signs of some trade units and public institutions, and incited people, through songs and slogans, to manifestations designed to hurt the Romanians' national sentiments.

In Satu Mare almost 4,000 Hungarian citizens hoisted the Hungarian flag over the Catholic Cathedral and defiled Nicolae Balcescu's statue. On the sign at the city's entrance, the city's official name of Satu Mare was replaced with its Hungarian name. In Tirgu Mures the wreath-laying ceremony was used by instigators, Hungarian Republic citizens, to hoist the Hungarian national flag over various buildings and to display anti-Romanian slogans. The same day similar actions also took place in other places.

The majority Romanian population observed with concern these actions, which obviously exceeded the framework of a dignified commemoration and took the form of open attacks against the Romanian people's national sentiments. In the following days the state of tension and the violent acts of an anti-Romanian nationalist, chauvinist, and revisionist nature escalated in Tirgu Mures. The Romanian Government took the necessary steps to reestablish calm and public order in all localities in that area.

Unfortunately, the implementation of these measures was undermined by actions undertaken by Hungarian Republic officials, which culminated with the 18 March press appeal made by interim President Matyas Szuros to Hungarians in Romania, asking them to intensify their activity and organize themselves as if Transylvania were an ancient Hungarian land.

Under this patronage, the large-scale propagandist actions undertaken by the Hungarian state authorities on Romania's territory continued with the sending of cultural assistance consisting of a large number of school manuals in the Hungarian language, which unfortunately also included historical and geographical textbooks and other books and posters that show Transylvania as a part of Hungary. The Romanian Government's declaration states, consequently, that a situation has been reached whereby the previous demonstrations jointly held by Romanians and Hungarians from Romania to assert the ideals of the December 1989 revolution were (?spoiled) by these extremist actions designed to exacerbate unrest, tension, and suspicion, which do not serve the interests of our citizens, both Romanians and Hungarians, in any way.

Thus, in the evening of 19 March, a number of violent clashes took place in Tirgu Mures which resulted in injuries to both Romanians and Hungarians, including a great cultural figure, writer Andras Suto. The Romanian Government, as well as the entire public in Romania, firmly disapproved of these dispictable actions and decided to take steps to relieve tension and ensure public quietude.

In spite of all this, in the afternoon of 20 March, new, violent clashes took place there, with victims registered among both Romanians and Hungarians. The Romanian Government has now taken the necessary steps to avoid such confrontations in Tirgu Mures Municipality.

As often emphasized by the Romanian authorities and by all political parties, including the organizations of citizens of Hungarian nationalities, the December 1989 revolution—a historic act of the whole people—has created conditions for democratically solving all problems concerning guarantees for equality of rights and human rights, including the rights of national minorities. This issue has already been dealt with in various regulations and other measures, particularly in the sphere of education and culture; an important place in this process is taken by the electoral law recently adopted by the Provisional National Unity Council [PNUC].

The Romanian Government asks for an immediate end to incitement and disapproves of the way in which the Hungarian authorities are manipulating the news and presenting the situation in Romania. These are unfriendly manifestations and attitudes, at a time when our country has to cope with many difficulties in various fields. Consequently, the Romanian Government expects Hungary to display an attitude of understanding and support for Romania's efforts in overcoming the difficulties.

However, one can note that the Hungarian authorities and officials' actions undertaken—both at the bilateral and international levels—are far from helping solve the problems; they actually stir up dangerous trouble and create further obstacles to good neighborliness, understanding, and cooperation between Romania and Hungary.

At the same time, these manifestations run counter to the provisions of the UN Charter.

The Romanian Government calls on the Hungarian Government to urge its own citizens to display calm and reason, to refrain from any action of incitement and interference in Romania's domestic affairs, and to show solidarity with the efforts and measures taken by the Romanian authorities to ease tensions and create a calm atmosphere, which can facilitate a lucid resolution of all problems.

The Romanian Government expresses the conviction that the other countries, the United Nations, and the world's public will correctly understand the situation created and will support the Romanian people's efforts to bring about stability, democracy, and national dignity, on the basis of equal rights for all its citizens and under conditions of strict observance of territorial integrity and national unity and of all principles of international law and the UN Charter.

The statement concludes that, on this basis, the Romanian Government is determined to establish relations of friendship and cooperation with all neighboring countries in order to promote peace, security, and cooperation in Europe and throughout the world.

Army Reportedly Getting 'War Munitions'

AU2103205890 Paris AFP in English 1854 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Tirgu Mures, Romania, March 21 (AFP)—Fresh violence was feared between ethnic Hungarians and Romanians here late Wednesday after two days of clashes had left six people dead, a top official said. Tibor Weszely, deputy leader of the city authorities, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that "the situation remains very dangerous and the Army is due to receive war munitions during the night, as new, violent clashes are feared". Mr. Weszely said that under a state of emergency declared early Wednesday police and armed forces would be patrolling the streets overnight. He added that six people had been killed and 365 others injured in the clashes.

A crowd of about 4,000 people armed with clubs meanwhile began to disperse Wednesday evening in this central city, as the Army and Deputy Premier Gelu Voican called for an end to the violence. [passage omitted]

The city center was covered with broken glass and burnt-out cars and buses and many shops had their windows smashed in.

The local authorities appealed for calm and for people "to cease immediately the demonstrations and gatherings". [passage omitted]

Roman Briefs Press

AU2103212190 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2037 GMT 21 Mar 90

["Romanian Prime Minister Makes Some Points"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 21/3/1990—Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman met on March 21 in the afternoon with Romanian journalists and foreign press correspondents accredited in Bucharest and special envoys of international news agencies.

Answering the journalists' questions about the events recorded these last few days in some localities in northwestern Romania, the Romanian prime minister made some points.

After reviewing the events starting with March 15, he stressed first of all that Tirgu Mures did not see any more violence today, March 21. The steps taken by the government to this end proved efficient. He told that writer Andras Suto, a victim of the Tirgu Mures demonstrations, was operated on at the Bucharest Military Hospital after which he was taken to Budapest by a military aircraft at his wife's request.

As many as 38 people among the participants in the Tirgu Mures events, including two mayors of communes near Tirgu Mures City, were held in custody for investigations.

The state of emergency was erroneously announced by a local official in Tirgu Mures, showed the prime minister stressing that such a measure could be taken only by the central bodies. [sentence as received] That would have entailed quite different measures on a military plane. He showed that the police and armed forces now sent to Tirgu Mures to help bringing the situation back to normal were not equipped with firearms.

[Bucharest Domestic Service in Romania at 2000 GMT on 21 March, in a similar report, adds that "Prime Minister Petre Roman, when asked about the three expelled Canadian citizens, said that they were known Iron Guardists."]

Magyars Stage Strikes

AU2103212390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2021 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 21/3/1990—Upon the call of the Tirgu Mures and Covasna branches of the Magyar Democratic Union of Romania and the Covasna branch of the Union of Magyar Democratic Youth a 24-hour general strike was organized in the economic units and institutions in the county.

It was peaceful and with absolutely no incident.

Roman Receives Harghita Delegation

AU2103212790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1948 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 21/3/1990—Today, 21 March, a delegation of the Harghita County was received at the Romanian Government where they presented Prime Minister Petre Roman with a memorial on the disquieting situation in Tirgu Mures and on claims of the population of Hungarian nationality in Romania.

From the talk held on the occasion it resulted that part of the problems raised were being solved, in charge of this matter being a governmental commission set up the day before that is analysing the situation in Tirgu Mures on the spot.

It was decided that the dialogue on the existing problems as well as on those that will crop up should continue on a continuous basis, both directly with the prime minister and with his representatives.

Situation 'Back to Normal'

AU2103214390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2019 GMT 21 Mar 90

["Situation in Tirgu Mures Comes Back to Normal"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 21/3/1990—Today the square in front of the town hall was occupied by thousands of citizens of Hungarian and Romanian nationalities who demonstrated for the claims previously formulated by the Romanians on 19 March and by the citizens of Hungarian nationality on 20 March. Under these circumstances a governmental commission set up yesterday by the PNUC [Provisional National Unity Council] Executive Bureau arrived in Tirgu Mures to re-establish order and prevent other acts of vandalism and violence. After a tour of the city to get acquainted with the situation the members of the governmental commission held talks with representatives of the groups of Romanian and Hungarian demonstrators at the headquarters of the Mures County Provisional National Unity Council.

As General Ion Scrieciu, chairman of the Mures County Provisional National Unity, said a commission was set up to analyse the causes of the conflicts and hold responsible the guilty ones, and another one to analyse and eliminate the reasons that make the apple of discord between the Romanians and Hungarians in Tirgu Mures and in Transylvania. Appropriate measures have been taken this evening to ensure order and tranquility in the city which involve a large number of policemen and military.

Now Tirgu Mures City is quiet.

PNUC Meeting Examines Unrest

AU2103214990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2119 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 21/3/1990—A meeting of the Executive Bureau of the Provisional National Unity Council [PNUC] is taking place in the capital city.

Before approaching the items on the agenda, PNUC President Ion Iliescu informed those present about the events of the last few days in Tirgu Mures and about the measures taken for the situation to come back to normal.

Messrs Mihai Chitac, minister of the interior, and Victor Stanculescu, minister of national defence, read accounts during the meeting.

Details were supplied regarding the measures taken to prevent the continuation of the state of confrontation between the Romanians and the Hungarians, to lessen tension in Transylvania.

Karoly Kiraly, vice-president of the Provisional National Unity Council, took the floor during the meeting, giving details about the situation in Mures County, pledging to do his utmost to calm down spirits in that part of the country and re-establish fraternal relations between the Romanian and Hungarian communities.

The meeting of the PNUC Executive Bureau continues, the agenda including measures for the organization and unfolding of the campaign for the 20 May elections, as well as debates on decrees-laws.

The March 21 meeting of the PNUC Executive Bureau concluded late in the night after debates that lasted many hours, covering, besides the situation in some towns in Transylvania also the establishment of concrete measures for the organization and unfolding of the election campaign that started at the beginning of the week, and the endorsement of a package of bills on various sectors of activity.

Roman Sends Reply to Nemeth

AU2103215790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2055 GMT 21 Mar 90

["Message by Romanian Prime Minister"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 21/3/1990—Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman conveyed a verbal message to Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth in answer to the verbal message conveyed to him through the Romanian ambassador in Budapest. The Romanian prime minister states his surprise at the way how his Hungarian counter-part approached the questions linked to the recent events in a number of localities in Romania.

Romania's government, faithful to the ideals of the December revolution has firmly placed itself on the democratic platform of recognizing the rights of the national minorities and of ensuring their realization in the general framework of the country's democratization which involves all the citizens, irrespective of their nationality.

However, we note that the instigations from the outside have led to riots that go beyond the limits of normal claims, more particularly in Tirgu Mures, which required measures to ensure public order and quiet.

The acts of violence occurred of late, including those shunned by the official representatives of Hungary, are open attacks on the national feelings of the Romanian people. They are the results of manipulations and instigations by those forces that do not wish the attainment of the legitimate aspirations of the Romanian people, of the Hungarian minority in Romania included, which actually leads to a deterioration of the Romanian-Hungarian relations.

We would have expected the Hungarian Government, that immediately after the December 1989 revolution showed its solidarity with Romania's present leadership, to further have a friendly attitude, be solid with the efforts made and measures taken at these difficult moments, calling on its own citizens to order, to refrain from instigating and interfering in Romania's affairs.

We however regret to see the uncalled for situation lately, namely that outstanding officials of the Hungarian political life, escalating language, actions, have shown an ever more unfriendly attitude toward Romania and the Romanian people.

There is the real danger that the political organizations of the Hungarians in Romania, including the Democratic Union of Magyars in Romania, be compromised by the tendency that they be tutellaged from abroad.

The Romanian Government is firmly resolved to work for the establishment of relations of good neighbourliness and collaboration with the Republic of Hungary, steadily pursuing the target of settlement of all issues by a constructive dialogue.

In concluding the message, Romanian prime minister expresses the wish for a direct contact to know well the real evolution of the situations of interest to the two parties and settle the problems of concern.

'Anti-Hungary Accusations' Reported

LD2103221690 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2100 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] [Announcer] First of all we go over to Bucharest. You will hear Otto Oltvanyi's report about the situation in Tirgu Mures:

[Oltvanyi] Today there has been a new turn in connection with the events in Tirgu Mures. A state of emergency has been imposed in the town. From 1900 in the evening till 0600 in the morning a curfew has come into effect and the town's population has been called on not to organize further demonstrations. In spite of this, even at 2100 tonight, one could see groups and identity checks. The ambulances run frequently; according to certain reports they are transporting injured people to the hospitals. These injuries do not originate from clashes, but from the beatings and blows of bogus identity controllers. Various uncheckable reports are spreading about nighttime actions. The patrol service in the town has been strengthened; the military alert is complete. According to hospital figures, many of those who were seriously injured have died and the number of dead has risen to eight, while that of the injured exceeds 360.

Included in these developments, the Romanian Government has started anti-Hungary accusations because of the events that have taken place. In the evening hours an official Government communique was published according to which our country is responsible in a direct form for the outbreak of the bloodshed. It presents the events in the following manner: The Hungarian citizens who came to Romania on the occasion of the 15 March celebrations were carried away to the point of open attacks that offended the Romanian people's national sensibilities and with that the nationalist chauvinist and revisionist incitement directed against Romania increased.

Among the causes the document mentions is one of the statements made in the recent past by Matyas Szuros, provisional president of the Republic, which the government statement distorts and to which it deliberately gives the wrong slant.

Apart from the textbook affair, there are accusations that the Hungarian authorities are manipulating the statements that represent the Romanian situation. Totally contrary to all this is the request and demand which were formulated for the Government from the Magyar-inhabited counties, to the effect that these developments should be made known to the public by the press, in accordance with the real situation, and that the facts should not be falsified.

Roman Claims 'Sufficient Proof'

LD2103232490 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2300 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Prime Minister Roman has announced that on Thursday [22 March] he will telephone the Hungarian head of government, Miklos Nemeth, because he believes he has sufficient proof that Hungary interfered in Romania's internal affairs.

At his news conference in Bucharest Petre Roman said that for the time being Romania will not turn to international organizations vis-a-vis the Hungarian intervention because he thinks the two countries are able to solve the problems. He also declared that the Romanian Government guarantees full equality of rights for the Magyars in Romania.

Budapest Reports Tank Patrol

LD2103235790 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2300 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Soldiers are patrolling the streets of Tirgu Mures and they are checking everyone's identity. Sixteen tanks are standing in the town's main square.

The Mures County leadership has called on everyone to end the demonstration and contribute to the restoration of order. Although there is no ban on strikes, a resolution has come into being to the effect that supplies to the population must be guaranteed.

In the meantime, the Magyar and Romanian workers at one of the local factories have announced in a communique that they want to build their future together and they condemn nationalist manifestations. They have

called on the other factories to initiate, by a similar example, mutual appeasement in Romania.

According to news coming out of Transylvania, there is a strike in Mures, Hargita, and Covasna Counties. Only the factories manufacturing basic foodstuffs are operating.

At the initiative of the RMDSZ [expansion unknown], the Hungarian-speaking university students are continuing their sit-down strike. Everywhere parents are asked not to allow their children into the streets because of the tense situation.

Vatra Romaneasca Condemns Violence

AU2203085590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0738 GMT 22 Mar 90

["Transylvania: 'Vatra Romaneasca' Calls to Dialogue"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 22/3/1990—The "Vatra Romaneasca" Union condemns the 19 March spate of violence at Tirgu Mures as "alien to Romanian spirit and the statute of our cultural union" and firmly protests all attempts to blame it for such reprobatory acts. Refering to the name of our aim laid down in the statute, we call on all Romanians and Hungarians to be calm, exercise restraint and promote dialogue, a statement of the union says.

Joint Ethnic Commission Meets

AU2203085790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0816 GMT 22 Mar 90

["Transylvania: Governmental Commission Meeting"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 22/3/1990—The first meeting of a joint commission including representatives of the Romanian and Hungarian population of the city of Tirgu-Mures held under the aegis of the Governmental Commission ended Wednesday night.

The meeting agreed upon the agenda, working rules, and the principles of cooperation of future meetings. Discussions will be resumed Tuesday.

In the meantime, a meeting with representatives of ethnic Romanian and ethnic Hungarian youths was held. It evinced a lucid community of views and the determination for united action like in the days of the revolution. This parallel dialogue will be resumed in the same format this morning.

The attendance appealed to order and calm for a forthright return of public life to normal in the city of Tirgu Mures and the whole county of Mures.

The Governmental Commission includes: Gelu Voican, vice president, Nicolae S. Dumitru, member of the PNUC [PNUC] Executive Bureau, Nicolae Radu, member of the PNUC Executive Bureau, Attila Verestoy, PNUC member, Mihai Sora, minister of instruction, Colonel General Nicolae Eftimescu, deputy chief of staff of the Minister of National Defence, Major General Cornelius Diamandescu, deputy minister of the interior, Nicolae Cochinescu, general prosecutor's office.

'Peaceful' Demonstrations Reported

AU2203085990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0755 GMT 22 Mar 90

["Transylvania: Meeting at Miercurea Ciuc"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 22/3/1990—In a reaction to the events in Tirgu Mures, a peaceful spontaneous meeting was held on 20 March at Miercurea Ciuc, seat of the neighbouring county of Harghita. Banners were carried by demonstrators that proclaimed: "We want peace and security", "We are not separatists", "Solidarity with Tirgu Mures", "We want education in the mother tongue from the creche up to the university", "The Romanian Television should be free and supply fair information".

The local Provisional National Unity Council [PNUC] and the Hungarian Democratic Union in Romania persuaded the residents not to travel to Tirgu Mures. Wednesday morning a delegation including representatives of Free Trade Unions in the city's leading enterprises, and Mr Istvan Cwutak, a Free Democratic Youth and PNUC member, left for Bucharest to deliver a memorandum to the prime minister.

A call to strike was launched by the Free Trade Unions for 21 March. It was decided that only a small part of the workers of certain city enterprises should answer the call.

Paper Questions Forces Behind Unrest

AU2203090190 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2008 GMT 21 Mar 90

["Uppercut to Democracy"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 21/3/1990—"ADEVARUL" newspaper wonders "to whom does the fist that hits both the Romanians and the Hungarians belong? And it answers that behind the events in Tirgu Mures there are political forces that want "to deliver an uppercut to our young democracy." Noting that the papers receive numerous statements disapproving of what happened, "ADEVARUL" asks the respective associations and parties: "Why have these stands not been expressed clearly before the events?"

More Protests Anticipated

LD2203121490 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0500 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Excerpts] We just received a fresh report from Bucharest by Otto Oltvanyi. That is what you will hear now:

[Begin Oltvanyi recording] [passage omitted on calm in Tirgu Mures in the night, government commission held session] It has been announced that up to now, 38 people have been arrested, who are accused of conspiracy. Among them are the mayors of two villages in Mures County. Strike-guards have been formed in counties Hargita and Covasna. In Bucharest further demonstrations and processions are being organized today. These, like yesterday, will be of an anti-Magyar character. [passage omitted citing press reports] [end recording]

Hungarian Workers Stage Strike

AU2203122290 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1100 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Here is the news from our reporter in Tirgu Mures: The appeal to calm and understanding launched by the Governmental Investigation Commission, which arrived in this town yesterday afternoon was respected throughout the night, with small exceptions.

Unfortunately, as of this morning, upon the call of the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania, a protest strike was declared in most of the economic units, in connection with the tragic events that took place in the past days in Tirgu Mures and in other localities in Mures County. We mention that only Hungarians are participating in these strikes and the Romanians who want to work, in general are stopped from doing so. At the same time, massive groups of citizens started to gather in the center of the town, the majority of them curious to see on the spot the whole picture of the disaster, while others have come with the thought of continuing the line of demonstrations.

However, the whole central area is encircled by the Armed Forces and by the Police. Likewise, mixed patrols of military and police are patrolling on the major boulevards and all entries and exists of the town are strictly supervised.

The members of the Governmental Investigation Commission had a second meeting with the representatives of young Romanians and Hungarians, and at about 1200 [1000 GMT] a working meeting started with the representatives of the major unions and political parties which carry out their activity in Mures County.

Students Demonstrate at Embassy

LD2203140690 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1300 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] In Bucharest, another group of university students has demonstrated in front of the Hungarian Embassy. Its representatives met Ambassador Pal Szuets, who tried to explain to them that the Romanian Government was accusing Budapest without grounds.

PNUC Reorts 'State of Calm'

AU2203141290 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1308 GMT 22 Mar 90

["Transylvania: Calmness in Tirgu Mures"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 22/3/1990—This morning a state of calm was reigning over the city of Tirgu Mures and the County of Mures, the responsible factors of the local Provisional National Unity Council leadership reported. The county and city leadership have taken measures for the normalization of activity in all sectors.

According to the schedule announced, at 11:00 hours [0900 GMT] the Governmental Commission in Tirgu Mures met with representatives of the Romanian and Magyar citizens.

Kiraly Disapproves of Statement

LD2203154990 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1500 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] The Magyar deputy chairman of the Romanian Provisional National Unity Council, Karoly Kiraly, has dissociated himself from the government statement released after the nationality-clashes in Transylvania. He stated that the Bucharest position is not in harmony with the previous stand of the executive council, and in essence, it is using the methods of the Ceausescu times. According to Karoly Kiraly, nationality-hatred was aroused by the chauvinistic propaganda of the Romanian mass media. The government is trying to avoid responsibility, and in a hypocritical manner it blames national minorities and foreign citizens.

ADEVARUL on Youth Role in Parties

AU1503134390 Bucharest ADEVARUL in Romanian 8 Mar 90 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "Youth and the Parties: Today, the Answer of the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania to ADEVARUL"]

[Text] Naturally, for our union young people represent what they represent for society in general—the hope that we are watching those characters, those faces, and those voices rise from among our ranks which will overcome the contradictions we are confronted with, the difficulties we encounter, and the advertising surrounding us. They represent that part of society which, by the nature of things, was less affected by the dictatorship, is less marked by the years we have left behind, but are much more numerous for those of us who had the misfortune to live through the decades of oppression. I hope that young people are also aware of this, and that they are also filled with a sense of responsibility for our country's future. The Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania views the young people as the future sociologists, political scientists, lawyers, and economists; as young people working in the industrial or agricultural areas who will also be professional politicians, organizers, and as people

favoring a competent and efficient dialogue. We view them as the specialists who will rebuild our institutions. I am thinking of education—beginning with kindergarten up to universities; I am thinking of the cultural establishment and in general of the whole of cultural activity. From the bottom of my heart, I hope that they will benefit from peace and trust in the future and will have the right to the unhampered use of their mother tongue at all levels, to equitable representation in the political, public, administrative, and judicial activity guaranteed in the Constitution through a law for ethnic minorities. Finally, I would like to see them as a new kind of person, linked to their own identity, but also possessing the values of citizens of the country, of Europe, and of the world.

One of the most reprehensible crimes of the dictatorship was the conscious atomization and homogenization of society, and the systematic destruction of the sense of belonging to a community, to society, to a workplace, and even to a family. Certainly, whatever was said, was said in the name of national solidarity, national pride, enthusiastic patriotism. Meanwhile, the effects of what was happening were selfishness and mistrust in people and ideas. In actual fact individualism, violence, indifference, and even enmity toward one's fellow men were cultivated. I mentioned that young people had the chance of being less affected by the consequences that have affected us. I was talking about social and political experience, and primarily about the bitter taste of opportunism, which all of us have tasted, without any exception. Unfortunately, neither have today's young people between 20 and 30 years of age been spared the moral effects of "the golden era." I believe it is very important to understand that the young people, whom I do not view as a monolithic reality, but as a very diverse one considering social environment, level of training, and individual characteristics, are not always easy to reduce to a common denominator—if in general it is necessary for them to have a common denominator. Nevertheless, I think a few principles have to be clarified, roads have to be found that lead to the future—roads, I repeat, not road. For this purpose, the sources that nurture mistrust, sometimes complete mistrust, in any kind of regime, have to disappear from their lives. We have to assure them that totalitarianism, even in a more "humane" or "open" form, will never return. They have to be offered credible guarantees that they will not be manipulated in the future either, that they may have their convictions and beliefs, and that their active participation in public activity is a guarantee of the revolution. All our problems are certainly pressing ones. Wherever we look, we note open wounds, eyes asking for help, and situations that have to be changed urgently. We are surrounded by disquiet and fears about the future, which are so obvious that they often hinder our ability to see and note the small steps that have been made in the right direction.

Being aware of these things, I believe that the establishment on new bases of the whole educational system on new bases and its wide opening to the world should be given priority. We have to have a large number of scholarships in schools and universities, at higher learning institutions in Europe, and at outstanding research institutes; it would also be beneficial for our education to have as many specialized professors who are known in the international arena, as possible. Thus, apart from the moral improvement I was talking about, we have to fill an immense void of knowledge and information to enable us to use our capabilities for the benefit of our society and ourselves. In connection with young people in enterprises, I think we should not hide the fact that difficult times are ahead of them. The expected process of economic efficiency and privatization, which is more and more often mentioned of late, in other words the restructuring and rethinking of the whole economy, is a difficult process. Young people will be directly affected by these changes; there will be unemployment, complete or partial unemployment, and it will be necessary for some to change their professional activity. However, being mobile, dynamic, and open to alternatives, I think that young people will understand the inevitable changes and, at the same time, they will be assisted and helped financially on the basis of a set of programs so that they can be retrained and adjust to the new situation in this way. Finally, there are the young people in villages, who are equally important. At this time, in many areas in our country, village youth belongs almost to the realm of fiction. In the light of the new rural life, the fact that young people will once again become acquainted with the land, that normal relations will be reestablished among those who till the land, and that the people who work the lands will be respected in our society, all this will create, I hope, the preconditions for the revival of our villages and of rural areas, so that the fate of an important part of our society may change.

Geza Domokos, chairman of the Provisional Executive Committee of the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania

Newspaper's Director on Post-Revolution Trials

AU1603194790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1738 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 16/3/1990—Mr. Paler's perplexities take the form of frustration, of questions in connection with the trials for genocide: Does justice want that these trials be limited, that they should not accuse the communist system? Why? Does it believe that the massacre in Timisoara can be understood by avoiding the roots of the evil which lie in the totalitarian order?

It is obvious that the error of the tribunals is not a mere legal error, answers the honorary director of ROMANIA LIBERA daily which defines itself "independent".

The premises of this conclusion are set forth in today's issue of the paper. They could be summed up as follows: The first and the most important trial after the revolution, that of Ceausescu, was a sham although the verdict was right. We did not have our Nuremberg. Other trials

followed, other disappointments, which limit the genocide to one week from the decades during which the dictatorship made the most appalling attempt at denationalizing us in the name of a demagogic nationalism, at North-Koreanizing us, at taking Romania out of history and of Europe, at turning us from a people into a population. Thus there is the danger of getting used with the idea that only one malefic family is to be blamed for everything that happened, that two primitive minds had 23 million Romanians in their grips. We must be aware that totalitarism is a disease of history from which we must depart and cure, since these diseases have grave aftereffects, writes Mr. Paler.

Democratic League Protests Hungarian Celebration

AU1603195190 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1732 GMT 16 Mar 90

["Political Life—Protest of the Democratic League"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 16/3/1990—The news agency ROMPRES received from the Romanian Democratic League headquartered in Miercurea-Ciuc a text showing that demonstrations had been staged in Miercurea-Ciuc, Odorheiu Secuiesc, Gheorghieni, Kristuru Secuiesc and other localities in Harghita County on March 14 and 15 to mark the anniversary of the 1848 Magyar revolution. The Romanian Democratic League, a broad mass organization affiliated to the "Vatra Romaneasca" Union, whose targets include the proper celebration of outstanding events in the country's history, the text also shows, considers the events organized by the Democratic Union of Magyars in Romania and the Democratic Magyar Union of the Youth in Romania, in cooperation with circles in Hungary, as improper, all the more so as on that occasion a number of ideas, which are alien from the spirit of unity and brotherhood, were approached. Furthermore, the national Magyar flag flew in front of the headquarters of public institutions mayor's offices, houses of culture, schools, health and commercial units as well as private households in numerous localities in the county, while people wore scarves and rosettes in red white and green. On the same occasion, names of schools were changed and signs and texts carved on the memorials of the heroes of the Romanian Army were changed, outside any legal framework, the text further points out.

Expressing disagreement to like events, the Romanian Democratic League demands that like actions, that run counter to the fine coexistence between the citizens of our homeland and incite to separatist, revanchist acts should never be allowed in future. We need quiet, we need unity and brotherhood, we do not need actions that bring to the mind of the people in Northern Transylvania the sad memory of the events that occurred after August 30, 1940, the communique shows in conclusion.

Restructuring of Machine-Building Industry Noted

AU1603201590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1840 GMT 16 Mar 90

["Economy—Restructuring of Machine Building"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 16/3/1990—The restructuring of the machine-building industry appears as a priority demand in the imminent process of decentralization and orientation toward a market economy, shows the review "TRIBUNA ECONOMICA".

In the years of overcentralization, the machine-building industry, staffed with 830,000, acquired a structure in which the units manufacturing relatively simple machinery and equipment that incorporated a large quantity of metal raw and auxiliary materials like tractors, trucks and farm machinery were prevalent. They accounted for 45 per cent of the machine-building production. Such a phenomenon was an outcome of an unselective development of this industry that placed emphasis on the low-technology sub-branches and showed an incoherence in the growth of top technology sub-branches.

In the first category of sub-branches, units were built in excess and quality was neglected, their products lacking competitiveness. Consequently, big unmarketable stocks emerged. Added to this was the rigidity of enterprises and the research-design-production cycles that were 3-4 times longer in Romania than in the U.S.A. and Japan. The development at any cost of certain sub-branches led to serious disproportions in technology (30 years old in some units) and to formalism in the improvement of manpower. Furthermore, it was the erroneous policy of subordinating economic contracts to the production plan, which annulled the quality of contracts as legal documents apt to regulate the parties' act of will.

Under the current circumstances, it is necessary to maintain, over a short period of time, the fabrications demanded by the national economy and the export contracts concluded, that is those with guaranteed market. At the same time, an ever more correct appraisal of the economic potential of the machine building units must be made in all its aspects and the parts needed for the functioning of the existing equipment be produced or imported urgently.

We must not destroy what we have created with so much effort. We must follow the example of countries like Japan which exaggeratedly developed the metal and petrochemical industries in similar conditions, for example lacking indigenous resources, and still it could do it. In a period of transition, the review assesses, we should modernize those units of national specialization which have know-how and resources, and impart a longer life to their products. These units should be free to broadly and directly cooperate with scientific research, technological development and commodity marketing. It is also necessary to keep the state property of these

units and restrictively control their growth according to an orientative plan so as to gradually broaden their autonomy as regards raw materials and the home and foreign markets.

Newspaper Reviews Status of Turkish Minority

AU1703160190 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1429 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 17/3/1990—A number of groundless statements on the alleged deprivation of the most elementary rights of the Turkish minority in Romania, made during a recent Magyar-language broadcast on the Free Romanian Television, were received with amazement by the Turkish community in Dobrogea, a province in the South-Eastern part of the country where 90 percent of the Muslims in the Romanian territory live along with the Romanians, the newspaper "ROMANIA LIBERA" writes, also quoting statements made by authorized representatives of the respective community:

Mr Ablachim Ibraim, adviser to the Mufti of the Muslim denomination of Romania: We have 39 places of worship in Romania at present of which 38 in the counties of Constanta and Tulcea that is 13 times more than the respective broadcast said. A few years ago, with the construction of the Danube-Black Sea Canal, an ancient building, which was in an advanced stage of wear, was indeed moved from its location. However, it was renovated, in the same architectural style, and it looks even more beautiful now. As for the "Esmahan Sultan" Mosque in Mangalia, a historic and architectural monument built late the 16th century, it has never been closed. It is open right now and it is also a place of great tourist interest. Moreover, we plan to open three more places of worship, of which one will be a new construction. As for our graveyards, some of them were indeed wiped out in the past few decades, but they were graveyards in villages abandoned by their residents who moved on to towns.

Mr Omer said, Imam of the Mosque in Medgidia: There used to be a Muslim seminar in our town until 1966 or 1967 but it was closed for lack of pupils. We intend to open that seminar to train Imams and teachers of Turkish. To this end, we have the support of local authorities who said they would assist us in getting back the former seminar building.

As for the organization of tuition in Turkish, reputed intellectuals of Turkish nationality, such as Dr Fichiret Mujdaba, engineer Asan Arol, professor Omer Edip and others, including the adviser to the Mufti of the Muslim denomination in Romania, expressing the wish of the Turkish community, said the best solution was not to create separate schools, which would virtually be a detriment to pupils intending to enroll in further education. They wish that courses in Turkish be organized in the Romanian schools where pupils of Turkish extraction learn. This is a desideratum that accords with provisions under the programme of the Muslim Turkish Democratic Union of Romania whereby people of Turkish nationality show "there is no obstacle to a true cooperation, a highly humanitarian mutual assistance and friendship between our Romanian brothers and the ethnic minorities, the Turkish community included."

The latest population census taken in Romania back in 1977 put the Turkish community at 20,750 people, which compares with a total 17,500 given by the 1966 census.

General Claims Foreign Mail No Longer Censored

AU1703160790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0914 GMT 17 Mar 90

["Scope of Mystification: Uncensored Letters"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 17/3/1990—Letters or postal parcels coming from or sent abroad are no longer controlled by the special Securitate unit, Major General Nicolae Cerbu, a specialist in telecommunications told Romanian and foreign newspapermen on Friday.

Mr Cerbu, empowered by the national defense minister, called the newspapermen to show them how letters and parcels were intercepted by the Securitate and stressed that this activity stopped since 22 December 1989, and a team of the Military Prosecutor's Office examined and investigated the entire mail procedure. It was also shown that bugging equipment throughout the country were dismantled and sent to military units and the respective rooms were given to local telecommunications units.

The rooms and techniques used for the exterior control of parcels and letters and of their content were presented. These were metal and radioactive detectors, other sophisticated equipment to discover devices and substances which may threaten the life of the one who handles the respective letter or parcel. Procedures for opening letters and tracing invisible writing were shown. Weekly, over 10 percent of the 50-80,000 mails were controlled by the members of the Securitate unit and the rest was submitted to antiterrorist investigation.

In connection with the latter, Mr Vasile Stoenescu, head of the mail section, complained that currently this control was no longer made and that it was necessary to trace the letters and parcels with explosive and radioactive substances which threaten the life of the people who handle them. We had information—he said—that certain postal matter contained explosive substances. We made the antiterrorist control assisted by the Army but a special unit should be created to handle this matter. We raised this question so that the decision-making bodies may take measures to maintain the preventive and antiterrorist control.

Court Sets Date for Trial of Ceausescu Aides

AU1703165790 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1100 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] The Military Section of the Supreme Justice Court has set the date of the trial of defendant Andruta Nicolae Ceausescu for 9 April at 0900 [0700 GMT]. The defendant has been brought to trial by the General Prosecutor's Office for several common law violations, including the one of particularly serious murder.

The same section of the Supreme Justice Court also announces that the appeals lodged by defendants Emil Bobu, Tudor Postelnicu, and Manea Manescu will be tried on Monday, 19 March, at 1000 [0800 GMT].

As far as defendant Ion Dinca is concerned, the appeal has been lodged on his behalf by the lawyer.

Supreme Justice Court President Mr Teodor Vasiliu, who provided this information a few minutes ago, requested that the four defendants be brought to trial in their prisoner's outfit.

Prosecutor Appeals Ceausescu Guards' Acquittal

AU1903202290 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1916 GMT 19 Mar 90

["Appeal Against the Acquittal of Former Officers"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 19/3/1990—The General Prosecutor' Office of Romania appealed against the verdict of acquittal passed by the Bucharest Territorial Military Tribunal in the trial against the four former officers of the Department No. 1 of the 5th Guard and Security Directorate: Aurel David, Florian Rat, Paulica Tanase, and Marian Constantin Rusu. They were charged with the offence of facilitating the flight of the dictator and of his wife from the former headquarters of the CC [Central Committee] of the RCP [Romanian Communist Party] on 22 December 1989.

Election Campaign for Parliament Opens 20 Mar

AU2003194590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1633 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 20/3/1990—The campaign for the election of Romania's parliament and of its president—the first free elections in this country in the past 50 years—opens on Tuesday, March 20.

In a statement to "ROMPRES," Mr. Ion Iliescu, president of the Provisional National Unity Council, appealed for fair and honest elections with the primacy of confrontation of ideas, ruling programmes and solutions to ease the way to Romania's economic and social progress. According to the election law, the country's parliament which is to operate as a constituent assembly includes two chambers: the assembly of deputies with 235 seats, and the senate with 152 seats.

So far 54 legally-created political parties and groupings have entered the race.

Among the respective political groupings there are also the Christian and Democratic National Peasant Party, the National Liberal Party and the Social Democratic Party, which disappeared from the country's political scene a long time ago to reappear now with the aura of historical parties.

The race has also been entered by the National Salvation Front, which was created during the revolution and which assumed highly responsible missions on those days and in the period that followed.

Equally interesting is the participation in the elections of the Centre Alliance, including ten democratic groupings.

In line with the new voting law, the minorities can be represented to parliament—one seat for 20,000 votes. In case that number is not met one representative has his seat ensured.

As for the presidential office, any eligible individual, supported by at least 100,000 votes, has the right to candidate. [sentence as received]

The country's political life in the period ahead is expected to grow in intensity and to see election meetings for the nomination of candidates, exchanges of opinions in the press, on radio and television, and other events to inform public opinion of the programmes of the groupings in the election race.

Peasants Party Official Speaks on Elections

AU2003202790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1858 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 20/3/1990—Like any political party, the Christian and Democratic National Peasant Party [NPPCD] starts the election campaign convinced that it will win, stated to a ROMPRES reporter Mr. Ioan Lup, secretary-general of the NPPCD. But, like in any fight, we are ready to bear even a lesser victory, given that almost 50 years of political opacity did not allow any political party to unfold its campaign of resettlement in political life or to prepare means to sustain an election campaign. We think, he went on, that this campaign will be tough materially and in point of confrontation with the political opponents.

Christian Democratic Union Presents Views

AU2103185590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1747 GMT 21 Mar 90

["The Political Parties Introduce Themselves: Christian Democratic Union"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 21/3/1990—We have set ourselves the material and spiritual recovery of the country on moral Christian bases, stated to "TINERETUL LIBER" Mr Octavian Voinea, first vice-president of the Christian Democratic Union [CDU]. We fight

against communism, no matter the form it may take. We insist upon Christianism because the Romanian people was born at the same time with this faith. We consider ourselves the younger brothers of the European Christian democracy. We fundamentally differ from social democracy. I could say that we are antagonistic. We are rightists while social democracy stems from Marxism. We are Christians and radicals and they are atheists. Christian democracy is for a market economy, complete privatization, unhampered liberties. In this respect we are closer to liberalism, but we preserve our Christian essence.

The Christian Democratic Union made attempts to emerge in Romania's political life when communism became a danger. Immediately after 23 August 1944 almost all the initiators and leaders of the CDU were opponents, contestants, detainees, convinced anti-communist fighters.

On an external plane, we consider ourselves as brothers of the European Christian democrats whom we take as example for their achievements in their countries and for their methods we are going to adapt to our specific character. As a matter of fact we intend to affiliate to the Christian Democratic International based in Vienna.

Bucharest Expels 3 Canadian Citizens

AU2103193590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1750 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 21/3/1990—An order issued yesterday, 20 March, by the minister of the interior, Col. Gen. Mihai Chitac, suspended the right of sejourn in Romania for the following foreign citizens: Nicolaedoru Popescu, born on 21 November, 1943, Gheorghe Balasu, born on 24 May 1924, Mihaela Moisin, born of 24 June 1941, all Canadian citizens.

In keeping with the aforementioned order, they were supposed to leave Romania within 48 hrs from acknowledgement. Their names are included in the list of undesirable persons in Romania for a period of five years.

The respective citizens left Romania today, 21 March before 09.30 hrs local time.

Romania Applies for Council of Europe Membership

AU2103214190 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1955 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 21/3/1990—On behalf of the Romanian Government, Romanian Foreign Minister Sergiu Celac conveyed in Strasbourg to Mrs Catherine Lalumiere, secretary-general of the Council of Europe, and Mr Joao de Deux Pinheiro, acting president of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the letter whereby Romania's wish to be admitted to the Council of Europe is expressed.

The letter shows that the Romanian Government's application expresses its will to sincerely and actively commit itself to the purpose defined by the statute of the Council of Europe, which is a closer unity between the member states in view of upholding and promoting the ideals and principles that make their common heritage and of facilitating their economic and social progress.

The confidence is expressed in conclusion that the Romanian Government's application for admission to the Council of Europe, which is approved of by all parties and political formations represented on the Provisional National Unity Council, will be analyzed in a spirit of good will and Romania will be invited to become a member of the Council of Europe.

Socialist Justice Party Publishes Magazine

AU2203090590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2009 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 21/3/1990—The first issue of magazine "GLASUL"—THE VOICE—of the Socialist Party of Justice Independent, has come out in Bucharest.

Having the motto "Work, Justice and Instruction," essential and vital as the editorial shows for the safeguarding, consolidation and assertion of the ideals of the 1989 revolution, "GLASUL" addresses those who reject the totalitarian ideology.

The magazine, boasting numerous pictures from the sessions of the Provisional National Unity Council, runs articles, notes, accounts and news items about the country's political and social life, as well as extensive commentaries on various foreign events, such as the election of the first president of the Soviet Union.

Iraq Cancels Markovic Visit

LD2203133390 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1235 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Belgrade, March 22 (TANJUG)—The Belgrade daily BORBA reveals on Thursday [22 March] that the Iraqi Government has demonstratively, at the eleventh hour, cancelled a scheduled visit to Baghdad by Yugoslav Foreign Secretariat spokesman who regretted the execution of the OBSERVER correspondent Farzad Bazoft.

Last week the spokesman stated, in a measured and restrained tone, that "such an act is hard to understand and accept."

"Guided by the principles of humaneness, we, naturally, much regret that the death sentence was carried out," he said.

The Yugoslav embassy in Baghdad is flooded with letters and telegrams in which various Iraqi associations "spontaneously" express their disappointment because they expected Yugoslavia's full support. Most often, such messages are addressed to Yugoslav President Janez Drnovsek as current chairman of the nonaligned movement, reports BORBA.

By condemning the Bazoft hanging, believes BORBA, the Yugoslav diplomacy has in a way forced the cancellation of the visit, originally set for today. had Prime Minister Markovic appeared in Baghdad, he would have been the first foreign statesman officially visiting Iraq after the execution of the journalist on charges of espionage and following the indignation which the act aroused in the world.

BORBA warns that somebody in Yugoslavia could find the foreign Secretariat's conduct colliding with Yugoslavia's national interests. For this year alone, Iraq owes this country more than the sum under an agreement just concluded between Yugoslavia and the International Monetary Fund ($600 million). Besides this, over $1 billion Iraqi debt to Yugoslavia was rescheduled last year.

ROK Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

LD2003110690 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1548 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Belgrade, 19 Mar (TANJUG)—Dr. Janez Drnovsek, president of the SFRY Presidency, today received Choe Ho-chung, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Korea, who is in our country on his first official visit.

In the course of friendly and cordial talks, the sides agreed that recently established diplomatic relations between the SFRY and the Republic of Korea, together with the current visit by the Korean foreign minister, will contribute to a faster development of economic, political, scientific-technical, and other forms of cooperation between the two countries.

It was noted that great potential, common interests, and goodwill exist on both sides for developing bilateral cooperation. There is a great interest in Yugoslavia, whose economy is at the moment undergoing significant reforms, for cooperation with countries that have already produced considerable results in their economic development.

Minister Choe expressed his belief that the recently established diplomatic relations and a generally favorable climate between the two countries will encourage Korean businessmen in the direction of greater and more comprehensive cooperation with Yugoslavia.

In this connection, he announced that a large group of Korean businessmen will soon visit Yugoslavia to examine possibilities for cooperation in specific areas.

In reference to prospects for Yugoslav-Korean relations, Minister Choe said that the people of the Republic of Korea nurtured great respect for Yugoslavia, its original and specific sociopolitical system, and its prominent role in the Nonaligned Movement.

Minister Choe extended an invitation to President Drnovsek to visit the Republic of Korea.

Loncar, Choe Hold Talks

LD2003111990 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1556 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Belgrade, 19 Mar (TANJUG)—The road is open for incomparably broader and more concrete cooperation between Yugoslavia and the Republic of Korea, above all in the economic sphere, it was assessed jointly today after the completed talks between Foreign Affairs Federal Secretary Budimir Loncar and Korean Foreign Affairs Minister Choe Ho-chung.

The Korean foreign minister, as the highest ranking political personality of his country to visit the SFRY so far, has been on a three-day official visit to Yugoslavia since last night.

A visit by a delegation of 40 Korean businessmen to Yugoslavia in mid-April will be the first concrete step in the development of economic cooperation, whose scope is substantially broadened by the economic reform in our country.

The very substantial talks between Loncar and Choe also agreed that the two countries will open negotiations in May about reaching an agreement to avoid double taxation and about the protection of investments from noneconomic risks.

The Yugoslav-Korean talks also touched on the JAI [Yugoslav airline] interest in opening a scheduled flight between Belgrade and Seoul. Minister Choe expressed

the wish of the South Korean news agency to send a permanent correspondent to Yugoslavia.

Judging by today's talks, the Korean government is willing to back private investment in Yugoslavia, as well as to finance various projects out of the Korean fund for economic development and cooperation. Minister Choe expressed Seoul's readiness to support the cooperation between Korean and Yugoslav enterprises in third markets.

In order to achieve all this, it was noted today, it will be necessary, inter alia, to intensify official contacts between the two sides. Hence, Korean Minister Choe invited the Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign affairs to visit the Republic of Korea.

A substantial proportion of the Loncar-Choe talks focused on international issues, especially on the situation in Asia and Europe. With a view that South Korea, according to Minister Choe, is in the phase of establishing relations with Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria, and soon with Romania, the guests were in particular interested in Yugoslavia's view of the developments in Eastern Europe. The talks touched the problem of the division of Korea, and with regard to this, Minister Choe underscored his country's desire to strengthen trust and cooperation between the two Koreas, until unification is achieved.

Budimir Loncar hosted a lunch for the Korean foreign minister, at which both the host and the guest exchanged toasts.

Authorities Clarify Border Shooting Incident

AU2103153890 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 9 Mar 90 p 10

[TANJUG report: "Attempt by a Group of Turkish Citizens To Illegally Cross the Yugoslav-Italian Border"]

[Text] During the news conference held by the Secretariat for Information of the Federal Executive Council the day before yesterday, somebody asked: What happened on the border several days ago when our forces allegedly, as Ciril Ribicic said in a television program on 6 March, opened fire on a group of Turkish citizens? In this connection, the Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs has issued the following statement:

"At Fernej, in the commune of Koper, on 22 February 1990 a border patrol of the Yugoslav People's Army used firearms in an attempt to prevent a group of Turkish citizens from crossing the Yugoslav-Italian border illegally.

"After having issued the order to stop and firing warning shots in the air, the patrol of the Yugoslav People's Army fired a volley of six bullets in the direction of the group of people trying to cross the border illegally, killing Ahmet Karamahmud and slightly wounding Cesi Karatas, both Turkish citizens. The weapons were used within Yugoslav territory, some 35 meters from the Yugoslav-Italian border, and no bullets went into Italy.

"According to the statements made later, the group consisted of 10 Turkish citizens of which, in addition to the two persons mentioned above, six more were captured. The Turkish citizens entered Yugoslavia at different times but had gathered together with the intention of illegally crossing the Yugoslav-Italian border in an organized way.

"The subsequent investigation revealed that Ahmet Karamahmud, the Turkish citizen who was killed, had been fined on several occasions (in 1984 and 1987) for illegally staying in Yugoslavia, and that in 1986, because of his illegal stay and involvement in smuggling Turkish citizens from our country to the West, he was banned by our authorities from entering our country until 30 August 1990. However, despite the pronounced ban, Karamahmud entered the SFRY several times with the intention of illegally smuggling foreign citizens to the West. The last time the organs of internal affairs had to deal with Karamahmud was in 1989 in Ljubljana, which he visited with a travel document issued by a Turkish consulate in Italy. Ahmet Karamahmud was the organizer and guide of the group of Turkish citizens who tried to illegally cross the border with Italy.

"The group of Turkish citizens who tried to illegally cross the Yugoslav-Italian border was handed over to the competent judiciary organs, which will undertake the appropriate legal measures." This was stated in the statement issued by the Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs.

Hundreds of Podujevo Schoolchildren Hospitalized

AU2203113390 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Several hundred secondary school children from Podujevo have asked for medical help in Pristina today. The circumstances are unusual and so far unclear. Correspondent Milivoje Mihajlovic has the details:

[Begin Mihajlovic recording] Several hundred ethnic Albanian secondary-school children asked for medical help in the Pristina hospital this morning. The students are exhausted and are moaning, but according to the doctors at the Clinic for Infectious Diseases, there are no signs of any organic disorder, so the majority of patients were sent to the Neuropsychiatric Clinic this morning.

Such a mass phenomenon of patients with the same symptoms has never been registered in Kosovo. Another strange thing is that all the sick children are secondary-school students and only ethnic Albanians.

More and more sick people are being brought to the hospital every minute. About 3,000 citizens have gathered in the hospital yard and are occasionally raising two fingers. People have lined up along the street leading

from the Vranjevac suburb to the hospital and are greeting all cars coming from the direction of Podujevo.

Columns of people coming from all directions are walking toward the hospital buildings. Because of the big crowd in the town, the militia is directing the traffic at all crossroads.

It has been announced that Jusuf Zejnulahu and Djordje Aksic, president and vice president of the Provincial Government respectively, are going to visit Pristina hospital. [end recording]

Ethnic Albanians Gather

AU2203145490 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Milivoje Mihajlovic report from Podujevo]

[Text] The situation in Podujevo is very critical. About 4,000 ethnic Albanians have gathered in the town protesting because somebody had allegedly poisoned the air in the yards of the local secondary school. This morning after 0900 [0800 GMT], ethnic Albanian students, as they say, had health problems and lost consciousness. Soon a large number of vehicles gathered there, including ambulances with license plates of Gnjilane, Urosevac, and other Kosovo towns, which transferred the students to Pristina hospital. About 1,000 vehicles were found for this purpose.

Large groups of Albanians then headed toward the center of the city. Along the way, they were attacking Serbs and Montenegrins who found themselves in the street. As far as we could learn, about 15 ethnic Serbs and Montenegrins have been beaten up. The Albanians accused them of having poisoned the students.

A group of extremely aggressive Albanians broke into the building of the Communal Party Committee several times, searched through the offices, and broke windows. After 1400, strong militia forces came and have been trying to prevent open interethnic conflict.

Interior Secretary Gracanin Visits Ljubljana

AU1403171090 Ljubljana Domestic Service in Slovene 1430 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Federal Internal Affairs Secretary Petar Gracanin was on a working visit in Ljubljana today. The republican Committee for Information reports that he and Republican Internal Affairs Secretary Tomaz Ertl discussed general security problems and noted that there were no special security problems in our republic.

Regarding the rules for the state border area, they felt that solutions should be found that would be in harmony with the present times, and the needs and wishes of the people.

Republican Executive Council President Dusan Sinigoj also had a lengthy conversation with Federal Internal Affairs Secretary Petar Gracanin.

Kosovo Democratic Alliance Branch Meets

AU1503125690 Pristina RILINDJA in Albanian 12 Mar 90 p 2

[A.M. report: "The Albanians Have Never Wished Anyone Harm"]

[Text] A gathering was held yesterday in Trnava near Podujevo, attended by more than 1,000 people. Since the branch of the Socialist Alliance of Working People was dissolved two weeks ago and turned into a branch of the Kosovo Democratic Alliance [KDA], the meeting discussed the course of the tragic events in Kosovo and their victims, concentrating on how the situation can be overcome. A coordinating council for the KDA branch was formed, and a chairman and secretary were appointed. The meeting also formed a council to settle blood feuds and a group for the return to Kosovo of Albanians who have emigrated to Turkey.

Lawyer Ragip Gashi opened the meeting, saying that the KDA will strive for the good of all citizens, and will consistently struggle for the truth about Kosovo. He said that the victims who fell in recent events did not represent a success for current policy on Kosovo, but, on the contrary, were a dark stain upon it. Progressive forces in Yugoslavia and the world know the truth about Kosovo, he said. They know who the Albanians are, and international circles have also deplored the policy on Kosovo. As written history shows, the Albanian people have never oppressed others. He then said that we wish harm to nobody.

The local citizens harshly condemned the use of violence, maltreatment, and the "official excesses" that have been and are practiced against the Albanians.

Lawyer Ragip Gashi was elected to lead the group for the return of Albanians who have emigrated to Turkey, and was joined by two members. There and then, 14 peasants volunteered and signed statements that, if the need arises, they will give free land to all those Albanians wishing to return to their homeland. Three of them said they would each give one hectare, four would give 0.5 hectares, four others 0.3 hectares, and two others said they would give five and two building lots, respectively. A building worker said he would work without pay on five houses for those returning.

Those attending the meeting also contributed large and small sums for the construction of an eight-kilometer road linking Trnava with Luzan and Halabuk. The sum of 10,000 convertible dinars was collected for this purpose.

Kosovo on Slovenians Not Meeting Obligations

LD0303231990 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1447 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Pristina, 3 March (TANJUG)—The decision of the Slovenian Socialist Republic [SR] Executive Council not to meet its obligations toward the federal funds for

supporting the quicker development of the undeveloped republics and the Kosovo Socialist Autonomous Province [SAP] will lead the Kosovo economy into an extremely difficult situation. This will especially have an impact, the Kosovo SAP Executive Council maintains, on the implementation of the current developmental programs and developmental aims and threaten the implementation of the country's policy for developing all regions evenly and the quickest development of the Kosovo SAP.

It is the stance of the Kosovo government that it is necessary that the SFRY Constitution, the country' laws, and other regulations that stipulate the obligations to the development of the economically undeveloped, including the obligations of the Slovenian Socialist Republic to the federal funds, to its part allocated to the economy of the SAP of Kosovo, be carried out.

The Kosovo SAP Executive Council has demanded that the Federal Executive Council take all measures to implement the countrty's policy for more even development and the obligations to the federation's funds and the Yugosalv program on Kosovo. Direct contacts between the Executive Council of the Kosovo SAP Assembly and the executive council of the SR of Slovenia Assembly are necessary in resolvijng this problem, it is said in the statements sent to the media in Pristina today.

Morina Foresees Kosovo Party Changes

LD0303214290 Belgarde TANJUG in English 1750 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Pristina, March 3 (TANJUG)—The League of Communists of Kosovo (L.C.K.) will be reorganized into a democratic political party whose "main characteristics" will be peace, democracy, security, equality and prosperity for all nations and nationalities of the province, Kosovo communist leader Rahman Morina said in Pristina today.

Speaking at a session of political activists of the province, Morina said that the L.C.K. would cooperate with all those who are for democratic socialism. The L.C.K. will not cooperate with those who implement a policy of threats and blackmail and who act towards violence and terrorism. The L.C.K. will oppose these people with every political ways and means, Morina was adamant.

Morina assessed that so-called members of alternative movements and democrats have been the most aggressive in their activities in Kosovo recently. They insist solely on the ethnic factor and some of them urge Kosovo's secession from the Republic of Serbia and Yugoslavia.

The L.C.K. and the state organs of the province, the republic of Serbia and Yugoslavia will not permit the toppling the sovereignty and integrity of the country, or the threatening of the elementary national interests of all nations and nationalities for the creation of a so-called "greater Albania" the Kosovo communist leader concluded. Yugoslav Interior Secretary Petar Gracanin was in Kosovo today, where he spoke with members of the joint federal police unit. Gracanin assessed that this unit had made a vital contribution to stabilizing the situation in the province and that it must continue to be a Yugoslav unit in structure, protecting public law and order and the personal safety and property of all citizens in the province.

Gracanin Visits Kosovo Security Units

LD0303213690 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1431 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Pristina, 3 Mar (TANJUG)—Petar Gracanin, Federal Executive Council member and federal secretary for internal affairs, yesterday and today was on a working visit to Kosovo.

The federal secretary, as stated, visited security centers in Pristina and Pec, where he had talks with the leading people of the centers about the further work and tasks of the internal affairs bodies. In the course of the visit, the federal secretary visited the combined militia unit of the Secretariat for Internal Affairs.

Speaking to the combined units' commanders, Gracanin assessed that the presence and overall activity of the combined unit contributed considerably to the normalization of the security situation in the province. He stressed that the unit must remain Yugoslav in character, must protect public peace and order, and must endure the safety of person and property of all citizens of the province.

Gracanin underlined the need for united assessments regarding the situation in Kosovo and the need for a joint work of the combined unit members and workers of the provincial internal affairs bodies, the statement notes.

Pristina SAWP Branches Dissolve

AU0603074990 Pristina RILINDJA in Albanian 1 Mar 90 p 11

[Drite Ruhani report: "There Can Be No Dialogue to Order"]

[Text] The meeting of the Seventh and Eighth Local Communities on 27 February, which was planned to discuss the political and security situation, took a different turn from the very start. A citizen called for a minute's silence for the victims who fell in the demonstrations. Nada Tokovic, member of the Pristina Socialist Alliance of Working People [SAWP] Communal Conference, responded at once by rising to her feet, dissociating herself from the citizens, and saying that neither the state, Serbia, nor Kosovo were to blame for their deaths, and that starting the meeting in such a manner is no way of solving the crisis. What you have done, she said, is just another sign of your familiar attitudes. Shouts came from the crowd, saying that the

state is to blame, to which she replied, "The state is not to blame," and appealed in the name of the authorities. At this, there was great commotion, and Tokovic was unable to continue.

"You, Comrade Nada," Gjelal Sopi said, "have lost the people's trust. If you think you can talk any way you want, you are mistaken, because our comrade first asked for a minute's silence for the fallen children, for innocent people, not nationalists."

Why Does Nobody Listen to Us?

National Liberation War veteran Fevzi Sopi said that we have come here to make our contribution and you start by annoying us. We all fought for Yugoslavia and love it just as you do. Agim Krasniqi said that Nada Tokovic's contribution was not in a parliamentary spirit. We have come to make specific suggestions and to overcome the present situation, not to distort facts and insult the dead. Mustafa Sopi said it is not true that the university is a cradle of nationalism. Remember that Berlin University was the first to raise its voice against fascism.

Ali Abdyli said that for nine whole years professors, academicians, and politicians have been imprisoned, and in the end children have been killed, and there is still talk of nationalism. An entire people is insulted by the highest authorities and nobody listens to a single thing they say, while, on the other hand, nobody mentions Serbian nationalism. Hazir Borovci asked whether the Provincial Conference [Zivorad Igic] president is president of one nationality or the whole people, and whether the Peony Society and the Alternative are equally legitimate, adding that there must be dialogue with the people or there can be no permanent solution. The armed militia are waging terror against children, women, and the Albanian people, while the responsible authorities remain silent. I demand that all political prisoners be released so that "the clear stream can flow clear again." Professor Sabri Ademi said that news of the slightest incident against Serbs reaches Belgrade in 30 minutes and is settled at once. We cannot go on like this. Whether we want it or not, we are on the threshold of democracy. Our fury is justified because we are deprived of the most elementary rights. The victims of reprisals cannot forgive the terrorism organized by the state apparatus.

Making Possible the Return of Albanians

Agreeing with other speakers, Sali Sopi demanded that the return of Albanians who have emigrated and pine for home should be made possible. He also proposed that the Provincial Presidium should be dismissed because it has not proved itself competent and has allowed us to sink into this situation. Nada should be ashamed for not standing for a minute's silence. A nine-year-old child cannot be a terrorist. Who among us has reached out for weapons? The Albanian people are not terrorists.

Nada Tokovic then took the floor again, and said her earlier stand had been right. I do not support anybody who kills children, she said, whether he is a Serb or an Albanian. The official authorities have not accepted the program of the alternative movements because they say it is in line with that of the separatists. In reply to a question, she said that the Peony Society is legal because it works in the spirit of political peace. When I said that honest Albanians... (There were shouts from the hall, "Do not divide us into honest and dishonest") Nobody has called the entire people dishonest. I have not come to annoy you, as you say. I am talking about equality. (Someone jumped to his feet and said to the crowd, "Please, even when an enemy comes to your home, he must be welcomed. Listen to this speech also!")

Nada Tokovic went on to say that we must struggle for Yugoslavia. The Albanians have their republic, and that is Serbia. We are not interested in the alternative movements. You are annoying me and attacking every legal authority, you are even attacking the Yugoslav People's Army. (Everybody shouted in anger, "Not true. Nobody has mentioned the Army.") I apologize. But we have heard attacks on the militia and the like... (Once again she was interrupted by furious citizens) You are not listening to me, so there is no point in talking. Nada Tokovic then left the rostrum.

[The following passage appears boxed within the body of the item]

Our Mothers Are not Washing Machines

Dr. Limon Rushiti, whose entire speech was accompanied by applause, asked Nada Tokovic when she had dissociated herself from the term "washing machines," as our mothers have been called, or "apes," as the Albanian people have been called. He said that anybody who calls people apes is himself an ape. We are not cannibals. Whom have we eaten? Has any Serb been maltreated? Has any Serbian child been killed? Let Comrade Nada tell us. I am in favor of economic reform, but not the sort that creates colonies. We are for an equal Yugoslavia and for economic and cultural prosperity.

[end of boxed passage]

Islam Abazi said that she (referring to Nada Tokovic) has come on instructions and has merely provoked us. We cannot allow anybody to insult us in this way!

In the end, the working group drew the following conclusions: to unanimously support the students' demands, and to dissociate themselves from Nada Tokovic's provocative behavior. It was also decided that everybody together would join the Democratic Alliance and leave the SAWP [Socialist Alliance of Working People], dissociating themselves from all the "isms" imputed to the Albanian people. We also dissociate ourselves from and deplore the proposals of the Serbian professors for segregated students' accommodation, and we call R. Zlatanovic to account. We are against the colonization of Kosovo. We demand the return of Albanians who emigrated under duress. We are against the segregation of children in schools, and we demand that the militia should stay as far away from school buildings as possible.

We condemn the behavior of the militia in the students' dormitories, and refuse to allow 28 March to be declared a public holiday. We appeal to all pupils, students, and workers to hand in their membership cards and resume normal life, and demand that all deaths and incidents of maltreatment that have taken place should be investigated.

New Montenegrin Government Members Appointed

LD2103224890 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1339 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Summary] Titograd, 21 Mar (TANJUG)—During a joint session of all Assembly Chambers, Montenegrin delegates appointed two new Montenegrin republican government members. Bozidar Gazivoda was appointed finance secretary, and Vujica Lazovic was appointed secretary for town planning, construction and communal and housing affairs. There were four candidates for the latter job, but Lazovic tipped the balance because there are very few economists in the Montenegrin government, and it was also felt that more reliance should be placed on younger cadres.

Montenegro Urges Rights for Yugoslavs in Albania

LD0903224290 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1746 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] Titograd, March 9 (TANJUG)—The Presidency of the Yugoslav Republic of Montenegro on Friday called on the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs to "initiate standard diplomatic procedure" for the recognition of the national rights of Yugoslav peoples living as minorities in neighbouring Albania.

The Montenegrin state leadership said that the action should be complemented with stepped-up Yugoslav information activity to inform all people of good will in the world of the real position of Yugoslav minorities in Albania, who have been deprived of all cultural, political and national rights.

Within the framework of these efforts, a meeting titled "the Slovene population in Albania" has been scheduled for mid-June, to which historians from Yugoslavia, Italy, Austria, the Soviet Union, Greece and Albania have been invited.

According to Yugoslav estimates, confirmed by the United Nations, there are around 140,000 members of Yugoslav minorities living in Albania today (100,000 Macedonians, 20,000 Serbs, 17,000 Montenegrins and 2,000-3,000 others).

Most of them settled in Albania in the 19th and early 20th centuries and their national rights were recognized by the Turkish empire, of which Albania was then a part.

Albania today officially denies the existence of Yugoslav minorities and is trying to assimilate them by every means available, even extremely inhuman repressive state measures.

Relations Between Montenegrin Party, Opposition

AU2003212390 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 8 Mar 90 p 12

[Slavko Vukasinovic report: "Are Communists Turning Their Backs?"]

[Text] Titograd—The claims that more sparks will be flying and that there will be further aggravation of relations between alternative movements and representatives of the League of Communists at the session (yesterday) of the Democratic Forum devoted to the bases of the democratic reform in the Socialist Republic of Montenegro were not unfounded. The session started with leaders of the Forum's three working groups reporting on the draft law on free political association, the law on elections, and the law on public communication. Differences in views between alternative movements and official politics were already visible then.

The first participant in the debate, Milan Popovic, added fuel to the fire by claiming that Montenegro is currently at a political turning point about which one can neither be optimistic nor positive, simply because the current political situation does not provide even elementary conditions for such feelings. This is so, above all, because an obvious political blockade is imposed on the alternative movements. At the moment, the Montenegrin information media are also trying to impose that blockade. According to Popovic, the already-begun democratic processes are being seriously threatened because the "political police" has been summoning members of the alternative movements to the Secretariat for Internal Affairs for so-called informative meetings. The accusation that we have not dissociated ourselves from Tudjman is an obvious lie, because there is written and publicized proof that we have.

Zarko Rakcevic pointed out that an objective observer of events in Montenegro can hardly be satisfied with the pace of democratic changes; the initial advantage has disappeared and there are now two extremist views: One is belittling the attempts at democratizing political infrastructure and the other, opposite one, is exaggerating their importance. Moreover, the media are still virtually for one party. Zarko Markovic claimed that, this forum aside, things in Montenegro are the same as they were almost a year and a half ago: one-party domination in all elements of economic and social life, control over the media, and failure to legalize most political associations and parties.

Dr. Miodrag Perovic supported Mirkovic's words by saying that no conditions have been created for a constructive democratic competition, and that is hardly possible because 98 percent of the delegates in the Republican Assembly and as much as 100 percent of

members of the Republican Government are members of the League of Communists. What he demanded of the League of Communists, particularly in the Democratic Forum, was a dialogue on an equal footing and a competition of programs, also on an equal footing. He said that he did not understand why members of the alternative movements give cause for suspicion because of what they are doing, and why they were booed as observers at the Montenegrin Assembly.

Perovic made a number of accusations against the League of Communists and directly against Momir Bulatovic and claimed that the party is trying to push the alternative movements together into a coalition group. However, what they want is not conflict for conflict's sake, but they want to help Montenegro progress.

Svetozar Marovic reacted then by saying, among other things, that the struggle for democracy is very difficult because it involves a struggle with real people. Momir Bulatovic was even more bilious. He said that he simply did not agree with the statements by Perovic, Mirkovic, and the others, and, after all, such statements are only strengthening the League of Communists. Bulatovic said that he was disappointed with the course of the debate so far. "Much bitterness has accumulated in this place," he said, "and one should no longer waste words on debate with some people here, because doing so would be political masochism."

After saying, "I will have to leave this meeting, because I have some more important things to do," Bulatovic promptly did so. Milan Popovic and Miodrag Perovic reacted to this gesture of his, and Democratic Forum Chairman Dr. Ljubisa Stankovic commented on it by simply saying: "It is obvious that Bulatovic is not ready for a dialogue on an equal footing. He is, however, calling for a dialogue through the media." Jakov Mrvaljevic also made a comment: "We must have a lot of patience and energy and Bulatovic would also have to have them when the opposition is formed. He is also supporting it now, because this is the way the League of Communists will become stronger."

It remains to be seen whether patience and energy will last until the end of the Forum session that is still under way.

Bosnia-Hercegovina Agrees to New Constitution

LD2103185190 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1102 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Sarajevo, 21 Mar (TANJUG)—At their joint session in Sarajevo today, all three chambers of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Assembly endorsed a proposal by the SFRY Presidency to set in motion activities to change the federal Constitution and to adopt a new one.

These changes will signify our definite departure from the model of real socialism and from the principle of consensus economy and policy.

Bosnia-Hercegovina Political Parties Register

LD2103221190 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0821 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Sarajevo, 21 Mar (TANJUG)—In the Higher Court of Sarajevo today, the Bosnia-Hercegovina League of Communists [LC] was registered as a political party. This is the first instance of an existing sociopolitical party in the republic to be officially registered by a competent court.

In Bosnia-Hercegovina, there are currently three officially registered parties: the Fatherland Front, from the village of Kulisic near Srbac; the Mostar-based Society of Greens; and the Democratic Party.

The Socialist Alliance of Bosnia-Hercegovina is planning to become a political party in June. The Federation of the Socialist Youth of Bosnia-Hercegovina, which already has a rival in the Youth Forum, will transform itself into a political party soon. However, the Youth Forum, which plans to operate under the auspices of the Bosnia-Hercegovina LC Central Committee, is yet to hold its constitutive assembly.

Democratic Party Branch Registered in Mostar

LD1203180190 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1516 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Mostar, 12 Mar (TANJUG)—Representatives of the Mostar branch of the Titograd-based Democratic Party today received a certificate of registration from the Higher Court in Mostar. This is the first registration certificate granted to an alternative party or movement in Bosnia-Hercegovina so far. In view of the fact that the main Democratic Party has not yet been registered in Titograd, today's decision by the Higher Court can be seen as an act legalizing the entire party.

Many journalists and onlookers attended the ceremony in the Higher Court. Registration certificates are also expected to be granted soon to Mostar's Greens and to the Mostar branch of the UJDI [Association for Yugoslav Democratic Initiative].

Croatian Parties Begin TV Broadcasts

AU2203092790 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 14 Mar 90 p 3

[S. Vranic report: "Markovic Costs a lot"]

[Text] Zagreb—Party political broadcasts by the parties that will be taking part in the forthcoming elections have begun on Croatian television with an appearance by the leaders of the Social-Democratic Party of Croatia (on Monday [12 March] evening on the second channel). After the Social-Democratic Party of Croatia, another 19 parties will be presenting themselves to viewers before 6 April, and it has been promised that television slots will be found for those parties that register in the meantime and demonstrate a desire to introduce themselves to a television audience.

On behalf of the Croatian Social-Democrats, viewers were addressed by party President Dr. Antun Vuic, party Vice President Zeljko Olujic, Secretary Nada Hartman, and Presidium members Dr. Zvonimir Baletic and Vilim Ricic. In the first 30 minutes of their broadcast, they put forward the basic elements of the Croatian Social-Democratic program: a sovereign Croatia freely associated in an alliance of states (a confederation), a law-governed state that will respect human and political rights, and the pluralism of equal forms of ownership except for social ownership which should be privatized.

In the next 30 minutes, when the representatives of the Social-Democratic Party of Croatia answered questions, the viewers were able to learn that Markovic's program has so far cost too high a price, which is not being covered by the results, that the Army behaves conservatively, that it should be separated from the party, and that it cannot be a special guarantee of life. Tenants in socially owned apartments were probably delighted with this party's approach to the official proposal that it should be made possible to buy all socially owned apartments. This party believes that all apartments should be privately owned but if tenants were to purchase the socially owned apartments, this would be nothing short of robbing these tenants, who have already paid for these apartments with the rent and contributions to housing construction that they have paid so far.

Croatian Socialists Condemn Tudjman Party

AU2103200190 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 10-11 Mar 90 p 11

[S. Modric report: "Who Sowed Discord?"]

[Text] Zagreb—In our electoral program, we must take a clearer stand toward our former collective members. They expect this of us and therefore it should be said that they will continue to enjoy our full support in every respect, said Ante Matutinovic, Presidium member of the Socialist Party of Croatia, at yesterday's session of this party's narrowest leadership. Matutinovic also stressed that the programmatic commitments to social security must be concretized through very practical calculations, that is to say, it must be explained how the party, if it gets into power, will provide for not only the present level of social rights, but also how it would gradually increase them.

Also attempting to specify the Socialists' electoral political offers, Dr. Tomislav Jantol asked that it be said, without beating about the bush, what the causes and what the consequences are of the interethnic conflicts and animosity in Croatia and Yugoslavia, and that the party also take a stand toward Kosovo in the same way. Jantol said that the ruling political party in Serbia—which is headed by Slobodan Milosevic—contributed most to stirring up nationalist passions in Croatia. This party makes use of the strategy of destabilizing interethnic relations and the export of Bolshevik-nationalist policy and is preoccupied with redesigning Yugoslavia. Jantol stated that the seed of discord had been sown among peoples and was sprouting. One of the most obvious proofs of this is the appearance of Tudjman and his project of national totalitarianism, as well as some other parties that use national exclusivity as their weapon.

The Socialists of Croatia, who advocate full national equality based on the decisions of AVNOJ [Anti-Fascist Council of National Liberation of Yugoslavia] and the Regional Anti-Fascist Council of National Liberation of Croatia, must—as Jantol said—most resolutely and just as energetically rise up against both distorted and retrograde political programs. As regards Kosovo, the Socialists must say that Serbs and Montenegrins have been persecuted in Kosovo, but also that greater Serbian nationalism does not allow the rights of the Albanian people in the province to be realized.

A policy that rests on bogus representatives of the Albanian people, like Rahman Morina and those like him, cannot in the least succeed, said Jantol. He therefore proposed that the party's stands on Kosovo be amended with the demand that problems be resolved through an agreement among citizens of all Kosovo nations and that Albanians be allowed to choose their legitimate representatives in organs of authority.

[The following passage appears boxed within the body of the item]

Whose Is VJESNIK?

As the Socialist Alliance and its successor, the Socialist Party, are being released of their responsibilities as founders of newspapers and newspaper houses in Croatia, at the session of the Socialist Party's Presidium a debate was conducted on the financial side of this "separation." Explaining the party's intentions, Marinko Panic stressed that it must, first of all, be calculated what and how much the Socialist Alliance of Working People had invested in VJESNIK and other media that had been the front's media according to the law. Then, it would be best to legalize the co-ownership status of the party in proportion to the amount of funds invested. We advocate the total freedom of every newspaper, said Panic, but ownership rights should be cleared up.

This stand was opposed by VJESNIK enterprise Director Vladimir Slijepcevic, who was attending the session, when he stated that the party cannot have any rights whatsoever in the VJESNIK house. He also stressed that he hoped that the Socialist Party would one day be strong and reputable, but at the moment it is only one of 25 parties registered in Croatia.

If co-ownership is being considered, then it is logical that a co-owner of this newspaper should be the Socialist Republic of Croatia Assembly.

Slovene Opposition Leader Discusses Secession

LD2103183590 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2106 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Zagreb, 20 Mar (TANJUG)—Dr. Joze Pucnik, a candidate of the united opposition [Demos] during the forthcoming multiparty elections, spoke on the platform of the Zagreb Information Center this evening within the series of lectures on Slovenia between Yugoslavia and Europe.

Demos is contesting the election in order to fulfill its two fundamental demands. They are, according to Dr. Pucnik, " an uncompromising removal of all the institutions of the one-party communist system," to be replaced by a multiparty pluralist system, and a radical change of Slovenia's status in Yugoslavia.

Demos is convinced that Slovenia's status in Yugoslavia must be discussed again, Pucnik said. He also judged that Yugoslavia "as it is today does not enjoy the conditions required for its further existence." As a federation, Yugoslavia can exist only if it is a law-governed state. Yugoslavia has never been that because the Communist Party decided everything, Dr. Pucnik claimed.

The current demand of Demos, the leader of the united opposition stressed, is that we are ready to discuss the confederal framework of Yugoslavia, on the condition that there is a sovereign and independent Slovene society, that is, state. "If we do not receive adequate understanding for this stand, secession is the only thing that remains open to us," was the way Dr. Pucnik described the stand that Demos is putting to the electorate.

Answering a question, Dr. Pucnik said that the difference between Demos and the League of Communists of Slovenia-Party of Democratic Renewal [ZKS-SDP] is that the ZKS-SDP sees the Yugoslav confederation as an asymmetrical federation, while the opposition believes that a "radical change of the federation" is required.

Several questions put to him from members of the audience referred to the problem of international consequences of Slovenia's possible secession and to his evaluation of the "risk" involved in this Demos policy in view of the fact that the world at large expresses interest in Yugoslavia and its stability.

Pucnik denied the existence of a "risk," saying that Demos has approached some international institutions concerning this issue and has also had talks with Italy. He put forward the interpretation that "all the information on international legal agreements with Italy is such that Slovenia would be considered the successor of Yugoslavia's rights on the territory of Slovenia."

According to Pucnik, secession would amount to a violation of the SFRY Constitution, which in a normal state is a serious thing, but in Yugoslavia the Constitution is violated with "conveyor-belt" frequency, so to speak. However, if such a decision is taken by the Slovene people there is no one in the world who could challenge this step, Pucnik believes.

The guest of the Zagreb Information Center also challenged the claim implicit in a question put to him about whether West Europe and the United States are interested in preserving Yugoslavia as a whole. He said that, true enough, this is what perhaps they would like best, but monitoring our internal conflicts between the leaderships of the party in power, they have recently had different "models" when anticipating a possible development of events.

From the talks he has had with diplomats, he said, who "came to see him—it was not he who went to see them," Dr. Pucnik drew the conclusion that provided it does not mean changing the borders within Yugoslavia or changing the border with regard to Europe; they considered this to be a Yugoslav internal affair.

Kucan on Slovenia's 'Entry Into Europe'

AU2003124190 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 18 Mar 90 p 11

[M. Laketic report: "We Slovenes Will Have to Go To Europe on Our Own"]

[Text] Ljubljana, 17 Mar—During the visit by Slovene Assembly President Miran Potrc to the Italian parliament, an incident occurred when Italian parliament member Bojan Brezigar asked Potrc a question in Slovene. The president of the provincial council for Friuli and Venezia Giulia, Paolo Solimbergo, asked Brezigar to ask questions in Italian so that the parliament could follow the conversation. Slovene politicians described this as an incident.

This "incident" prompted Milan Kucan to hold a news conference in Trieste last night at which he criticized the conduct of Mr. Solimbergo the day before yesterday.

"The incident is extremely uncivilized and undemocratic," Kucan said adding that the Slovenes do not expect milk and honey on their way to Europe.

Answering the question of how he saw Slovenia's entry into Europe, Kucan said, "Yugoslavia, the way it is today, is not ready for Europe. If the policies in other Yugoslav republics do not follow the majority's mood concerning the realization of legal conditions for linking up with Europe, we Slovenes will have to enter Europe on our own."

At the same time, Ciril Ribicic and Joze Smole accepted the invitation to attend a roundtable discussion organized by Styrian socialists in Graz, in neighboring Austria.

During the roundtable talk, which was also attended by the federal and regional representatives of Styria's socialists, Smole said, among other things, that "Serbian nationalism is extremely dangerous" in Yugoslavia. He

warned the Austrians about "certain moves of Ante Markovic because of which the Slovene economy has found itself in a serious crisis," saying that this was the main reason "for the Slovenes to strive for a confederal status." In addition, both Smole and Ribicic stressed that the Federal Executive Council's decision on extending the border strip from 100 meters to 1,000 meters "has shocked the Slovene public." They both stressed that they will do their utmost "so that the Army is removed from the state border all together."

Slovenes Polled on Confederation, Parties

LD1503144290 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0809 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Ljubljana, 15 Mar (TANJUG)—According to the customary poll conducted by DELO, the majority of the polled inhabitants of Slovenia are in favor of Yugoslavia as a confederation. Namely, 51.9 percent of the 532 citizens polled favor a confederation setup.

Twenty-eight percent of those questioned see the future for Slovenia in its secession from Yugoslavia; 7.9 percent favor an efficient federation; 12.2 percent did not know, and no one was in favor of a unitary Yugoslavia.

The majority, 79 percent, stated that they trust more Slovene than Yugoslav parties; six percent trust Yugoslav parties; seven percent trust neither; and nine percent were either not interested in the issue or did not have an opinion about it.

Starting with today's poll, DELO will publish a series of weekly investigations in which, during the election period, it wants to answer the question of what degree of support individual parties, their candidates, and programs command.

Slovene Presidential Candidates Register

AU1503123990 Ljubljana DELO in Slovene 10 Mar 90 p 1

[Jana Taskar report: "All the Presidential Candidates"]

[Text] Ljubljana, 9 Mar—As of today, we have four presidential candidates: Milan Kucan has been nominated by the LCS [former initials of the League of Communists of Slovenia]-Party of Democratic Reform and the Socialist Alliance of Slovenia; Joze Pucnik has been nominated by Demos; Marko Demsar by the ZSMS [former initials of the Slovene Socialist Youth Federation]-Liberal Party; and Ivan Kramberger confirmed his own nomination with 5,000 voters' signatures.

According to the nominations so far (the time for nominations has not yet expired), 14 candidates will run for the four seats on the Presidency of the republic, including: Matjaz Kmecl, Franc Miklavcic, Ivan Oman, Dusan Plut, Dimitrij Rupel, Bostjan Zupancic, Ciril Zlobec, Peter Novak, Miroslava Gec-Korosec, Alojz Krizman, Bogdan Oblak, and Slavoj Zizek.

No data have yet been released on how many candidates there are for the 80 delegate seats in the Sociopolitical Chamber, but 15 parties are entitled to nominations (because they all have at least 500 members each).

The voters meetings at which candidates were nominated mostly concluded last week, and 45 communal election commissions have prepared their reports. It is estimated that somewhat over 50,000 voters attended the meetings, and in their choice between the two candidates for the president of the republic, they gave just over 500 votes more to Milan Kucan than to Joze Pucnik. Ivan Oman is leading among the candidates for Presidency members, followed by Matjaz Kmecl, Dusan Plut, Dimitrij Rupel, and Franc Miklavcic.

Democratic Reform Party Convention Noted

LD0403204890 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1509 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Ljubljana, 4 Mar (TANJUG)—Milan Kucan, president of the Slovene Central League of Communists [LC]-the Democratic Forum Party, is the party's candidate for the post of president of the Socialist Republic [SR] of Slovenia Presidency. A decision to this effect was unanimously passed by 110 members of the party who took part in the party's convention today. Dr. Matjaz Kmecl and Bostjan Zupancic were nominated as candidate members of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia Presidency. A list of candidates for coming Assembly elections was also adopted today.

Out of 81 candidates, 64 are educated at the university level, six have degrees from institutions of higher education, and eight are educated to secondary school level; 25.6 percent of the candidates are women. The list also includes candidates who are not official members of the Slovene LC-the Democratic Reform Party.

The participants in the convention—the majority of them members of the Slovene LC Central Committee-the Democratic Reform Party, today endorsed the party's electoral program after a number of amendments had been made to it. The program's main commitments are to ensure Slovenia's equal, sovereign, and confederal status and to safeguard multiparty political competition and free elections. The party will advocate an honest attitude to the past, the removal of past mistakes, an ecologically clean Slovenia, an efficient national economy, a social welfare state and full rights for minorities. The party will also work toward ensuring Slovenia's more comprehensive participation in current democratic, political, and economic trends in the world.

In an introductory speech, Milos Prosenc drew attention to a recent statement by Milan Kucan who said that the Slovene LC-the Democratic Reform Party was the first communist party in power to put to the test its own political credibility without any pressures from indignant citizens and their meetings, demonstrations, or strikes.

In the course of implementing its program, the party, according to Prosenc, will devote particular attention to removing the fear of unemployment, of social conflicts, poverty, intranational intolerance, and revanchism. If our party is to be successful in fulfilling its vision of both Slovene and Yugoslav society and of a European quality of life, we must constantly bear in mind the need to eliminate all forms of the state of emergency as well as the causes of conflicts that are likely to take us to the verge of a civil war, Milos Prosenc said.

The participants in the convention drew particular attention to the critical situation in the Slovene economy. Some measures from the Federal Executive Council [FEC] program that it was said, had reduced the efficiency of the one-time most-successful economy and that were designed to push it toward the verge of collapse, were most frequently cited as the main cause of the existing situation.

Most criticism was directed at the existing attitude to exporters and at inconsistencies in implementing FEC measures in some parts of Yugoslavia and in Serbia in particular.

Drawing attention to examples of one-sidedness in the electoral program of the Slovene LC-the Democratic Reform Party, Lev Kreft stressed that "this party is aware of the fact that Slovene individuality that wishes to build a Berlin Wall along the Kupa River [Slovene border with Croatia] and whose national identity rests on intolerant counterreformation, is not Slovene to the full."

We know, Kreft said, that the Slovene individuality that is so worried about its identity that it would gladly encompass itself with the Alps, will never take us into Europe. Instead, it will drag us toward provincialism and lagging behind. Slovene individuality implies enterprise economy, social welfare state, and political democracy in which no single person will be priveleged just because he or she is a Slovene and in which no one will feel less valuable because he or she is not a Slovene.

Slovenia will be a democratic state in line with European standards and not a tribal elite, Lev Kreft said amid tumultuous applause.

Ribicic Discusses Slovene Communists

AU0603083290 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 2 Mar 90 p 5

[V. Djordjevic report: "LCY As Comparative Advantage"]

[Text] Zagreb—The Central Committee president of the LCS [former initials of the League of Communists of Slovenia]-Party of Democratic Reform was a guest of the discussion forum entitled, "The Yugoslav Policy of the Party of Democratic Reform," organized by the City Committee of the Zagreb League of Communists [LC] in Zagreb yesterday. On this occasion, Ciril Ribicic said that in the last few years the Slovene Communists have found the federal party center to be a burden and a threat to democratic processes in Slovenia.

The organization that we all said, Ribicic continued, was a guarantee for the existence and success of the AVNOJ [Anti-Fascist Council of National Liberation of Yugoslavia] Yugoslavia is increasingly becoming a factor that is deepening the crisis, and even destabilizing and breaking up Yugoslavia. In recent years, we have felt that relations in this organization were not on equal footing, we experienced majoritarianism and manipulation, and we felt as if we, the Slovene Communists, were being put in the dock as a regular culprit for everything bad in Yugoslavia. And all this was for the aim that was concisely formulated by Slobodan Milosevic.

We invested much energy, nerves, and knowledge in trying to turn the LCY [League of Communists of Yugoslavia] into our comparative advantage before political competition in Slovenia, which is insufficiently experienced and interested in linking up with Yugoslavia. The last, perhaps naive, attempt was made during the preparations for the 14th LCY Congress.

In the former LCY, Ribicic continued, very strong political forces operate that are trying to resolve the present situation in a completely different way. The election of Petar Skundric is in conflict with the old statute and rules of procedures of the former LCY on, for instance, the order of who should perform this duty, secret ballots, more candidates, and so forth.

I think that those who are today attacking the Croatian LC for causing the alleged national divisions in the LC are far from objective in their assessments, Ribicic said. If it was anybody it was the Croatian LC that held principled and restrained stands when the flood of nationalist programs, led by the Serbian great nationalist program, started to swell in Yugoslavia and the LCY.

It is somewhat understandable why this restraint and reservations toward nationalism were not sufficiently appreciated in Croatia and outside it. However, it is too much to accuse the Croatian LC of causing nationalist divisions, as was, for instance, done by the LC Organization in the Yugoslav People's Army, which did not have enough strength or courage to mention those organizations and those leaderships who in fact started national divisions and confrontations. One would expect the Communists in the Yugoslav People's Army to be more objective and neutral.

There are some elements, Ribicic said in conclusion, that are indicating positive trends within the former LCY. I am referring to the generally accepted stand on consensus, to the special emphasis on the declaration, to the acceptance of the idea to prepare a completely new LCY program and statute in a relatively short period of time, and so forth. However, there are also some elements that call for caution: I am referring to the intensification of the repressive policy toward Kosovo and new attempts to establish relations in the country according to the

situation in Kosovo—I am thinking of the proposal to extend the border strip to 1,000 meters, I am referring to the continuation of the old policy and the old unequal relations in the Presidium of the former LCY, I am referring to the intensification of the economic blockade of Slovenia, to the pressure to form another parallel communist party in Slovenia according to the model suggested by Vojvodina, and so forth.

Social Democratic Party of Macedonia Founded

LD2103072190 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1630 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Summary] Skopje, 18 Mar (TANJUG)—The founding assembly of the Social Democratic Party of Macedonia was held today at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje, in the presence of about 500 members and supporters. A central council was elected and Dr. Slavko Milosavlevski was appointed as the party's chairman.

Macedonian Presidency on 'Bulgarian Declaration'

AU1903172190 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 14 Mar 90 p 10

[M.K. report: "Escalation of Great Bulgarian Policy"]

[Text] Skopje, 13 Mar—Expressing its dissatisfaction with and concern about the declaration of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, in which the message of the SFRY Assembly concerning the position of the Macedonian minority in Bulgaria was rejected in the most impudent way, last night the Presidency of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia protested most energetically by stressing that the aforementioned declaration "affirms the great Bulgarian nationalist policy toward the Macedonian minority, the Socialist Republic of Macedonia, and the Macedonian nation as a whole."

The statement stresses that it is unacceptable to put forward such untruths by falsifying historic facts and generally accepted truths, including some laws and other documents of the Great National Assembly of Bulgaria that were adopted after World War II.

In all this the most worrying thing is the fact that with this document the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Bulgaria has manifested open territorial pretensions toward the SFRY and the Socialist Republic of Macedonia.

In its statement, the Socialist Republic of Macedonia concludes with regret that the declaration issued by the People's Republic of Bulgaria reflects the lack of readiness on the part of the Bulgarian politicians to understand and accept the essence of the message sent by the SFRY Assembly, its profound humane aspect regarding the rights and position of the Macedonian minority in Bulgaria, and the attempts to resolve these issues within the overall democratic processes in Bulgaria and Europe. If this is accepted, this would at the same time mean an indisputable and strong stimulus for the further development of good neighborliness and cooperation.

The latest anti-Macedonian, which is to say, anti-Yugoslav act, with which the Bulgarian National Assembly maintains "the continuity of the earlier policy of Todor Zhivkov," in fact represents an unseemly attack on the policy and integrity of the SFRY, on the dignity and identity of the Macedonian people, and is in fact an impudent attempt to negate the individuality of the Macedonian people and usurp part of its history and culture. This new escalation of the great Bulgarian policy, along with pretensions, is causing the sharpest indignation and bitterness not only among the Macedonian but also Yugoslav public, and beyond—this was stated, inter alia, in the statement issued by the Presidency of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia.

Radioactivity Researchers Experience 'Harassment'

AU2203110390 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 10-11 Mar 90 p 4

[Zivko Cerovic report on "exclusive" interview with Nada Ajdacic; place and date not given: "This Is Shameful!"]

[Excerpts] It could be said that the names of Nada Ajdacic and her colleague Miljenko Martic have been two of the most frequently mentioned names in our country in the last few months. We are talking about scientists, recognized experts, and employees at the Boris Kidric Institute in Vinca who are responsible for supervising the measurement of radioactivity. The so-called August and January radiation was confirmed in Serbia thanks to their analyses, which is a subject that is at the focal point of the public's interest. Because of numerous open questions that appeared in this case (these cases), tho Serbian Presidency recently set up a state commission comprising of prominent academics in order to give their competent and, we hope, unbiased view on this complex of issues.

Even though in their first public announcement, the aforementioned state commission, which is headed by Dusan Kanazir, Serbian Academy of Arts and Sciences president, promised objective and unbiased work in the service of truth above everything else, numerous events over the last few days, particularly those connected with the two main protagonists in the "drama of the August and January radiation," Nada Ajdacic and Miljenko Martic said, show that the promise has unfortunately not been fulfilled. In saying this, one means the recent statement by the academician Slobodan Ribnikar, which was published in NIN and which in a certain way prejudices the future findings of the state commission, which has promised, as we have said, trial according to proof and not ad argumentum (according to the person). These two key protagonists in this story about radiation have still not been called upon to explain and expound on their findings and measuring methods before the aforementioned commission, which was after all the

reason why it was set up. Unless what we call some other "higher interests and reasons" have now come into play.

In the last few days, Nada Ajdacic and Miljenko Martic have been subjected to unprecedented harassment; they were physically ejected from their workplace without any right to complain; their equipment was taken away, as well as all their documentation that has been gathered over more than a decade. The same commission—for checking radioactivity—was quickly formed of people who have never dealt with this exceptionally specialized work. It is as if someone is in a hurry to remove these two researchers at lightning speed, to repudiate the work of the state commission, and to even put a question mark over their remaining in their workplaces. [passage omitted]

In reply to the question of whether she could say where the increased radioactivity came from, Nada Ajdacic said:

This is a police matter. My task is to detect radiation in the biosphere and contaminants. We work on precipitation and freely deposited dust. You know that you can very easily detect or not detect a given magnitude depending on your collection of samples, the method of work, and measurements. If you adopt an ethical attitude that is a professionally correct one, you can find the smallest concentrations of contaminants. [passage omitted]

The increased January radioactivity is, as you see, being explained by an increased level of precipitation. What Ecology Minister Dr. Pavle Todorovic stated is nonsense. I really felt ashamed after this statement because it is not known that drought generates radionuclides. By falling through the atmosphere, rain really can show increased radioactivity, but this is temporary. [passage omitted]

Party of Social Justice Founded in Serbia

AU0803180190 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 28 Feb 90 p 6

[D.G. report: "Young People—The Main Trump Card"]

[Excerpt] The Movement for Democratic Renewal will in the future act as an independent political party, the Party for Social Justice, the initiating committee concluded.

The political climate in Serbia has greatly changed since the movement's foundation on 25 December 1989, and this is why its founders have decided to transform the movement into a political party. A recent meeting discussed whether "there is any reason for the movement to continue to stand by its earlier-adopted platform, especially in view of the fact that in the meantime a multitude of parties and groups have come out with the same or similar programs." In their view, with regard to the new political circumstances, it is vital for the movement to transform itself into a proper political party, first of all because the founders do not agree that the branches of the dominant political parties speak for the interests of young people, and because the opposition parties so far formed in Serbia treat the problems of young people "either superficially or not at all."

The founders of the movement have therefore decided to turn themselves into a political party that will be "independent and democratic and will, above all, represent young people's interests." It will look for members among the 1,300,000 unemployed (and the 800,000 workers "who will shortly be jobless"), and also count on "the majority of pensioners, women, and mothers."

According to its recently adopted program document, the Party of Social Justice will be a "true people's party that will stand for social responsibility and the solidarity of all social strata, and will be equally determined in advocating democracy, a parliamentary state, full economic freedom, civil and political rights, and the protection of nature and the environment."

Instead of communist egalitarianism, the Party of Social Justice will call for individual initiative and social responsibility, or, as they put it "will struggle equally for social justice and prosperity." [passage omitted]

Radmilovic Comments on Serb-Slovene Dispute

AU0703074890 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 1 Mar 90 p 6

[TANJUG report on statements by Dr. Stanko Radmilovic, Executive Council president of the Socialist Republic of Serbia Assembly, on 27 February on the Belgrade Television program "Subjects and Dilemmas": "The Survival of the Serbs and Montenegrins in Kosovo Will Be Defended by all Means"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Speaking about the "Serbian-Slovene dispute," Dr. Stanko Radmilovic specified that Kosovo was only part of the reason for the confrontation between these two republics.

We are not talking about a blockade but about a reduction in the intensity of economic relations from the viewpoint of certain enterprises. No one in Serbia even tried to hinder in any way the work of 22 Slovene shops and purchasing locations. We are, however, talking about the activities of political and state factors in Slovenia that have to a great extent angered the citizens and business people of Serbia. After all, what kind of state, what kind of republic would have a benevolent attitude to the advocacy of the secession of one of its parts, as is the case with Slovenia's policy on Kosovo, asked Radmilovic?

The Executive Council president of the Assembly of Serbia agreed with the observation by the program's announcer that after "attempts at reconciliation" in the organization of the Federal Executive Council, the dispute between Slovenia and Serbia is back to square one, but he put the blame for this onto Slovenia. In answer to

a question from a viewer on why Serbia does not retaliate by dismissing workers in their shops and branches in Slovenia, Radmilovic said that such a thing had not occurred to Serbia's state organs because this would be an unprincipled action.

Commenting on the fact that many consumers are complaining that in Belgrade, for example, they cannot buy certain Slovene products, Radmilovic said that there probably were not many of these consumers; in any case, this is a matter for the trade organizations. He added that businessmen in Serbia are complaining that they cannot in any way penetrate the Slovene market, not even with goods that are three times cheaper. It can be concluded from this that Serbia is no more closed in than the other republics.

Replying to a question on the prospects and ways to resolve this economic and political dispute, Radmilovic stressed solutions as regards the economy that lead to a real and not, as he put it, asymmetric federation, while in the political sphere he highlighted the strict implementation of the Yugoslav policy on Kosovo. Radmilovic added that he personally agrees that it is essential to revise this program in light of the latest trends, which cannot bypass Kosovo, but always within the framework of preserving the integrity of Serbia and Yugoslavia, and ensuring the survival of Serbs and Montenegrins in this province.

Presidium Attempt To Convene Plenum 'Failed'

AU2103122290 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 20 Mar 90 p 1

[M.T. report: "The Only Thing Certain About the Plenum Is Its Adjournment"]

[Text] Belgrade—The second attempt by the Central Committee Presidium of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia (in an incomplete composition) to convene the 31st session of the LCY Central Committee has also failed. Although it was planned to be held on 22 March, it is now known that there will be no plenum on Thursday, because it is clear that certain republican "party delegations" are not ready to face the very serious and controversial situation at the party top so easily.

The Presidium has so far made no official announcement of the adjournment of the session nor has it set a new date. We have learned unofficially that this will be done at the session tomorrow that will be discussing, as its main topic, the stances issued by the leaderships of the republican and provincial Leagues of Communists in reaction to the recently published Presidium document containing assessments and proposals meant to make the continuation of the adjourned 14th Extraordinary LCY Congress possible.

It is hard to tell if the executive political organ of the LCY Central Committee will be able to decide at its session tomorrow to convene the plenum of the highest leadership of the disunited and incomplete LCY. It is even more so because the Croatian League of Communists had clearly made it known to the "federal top" that "they are not interested in any continuation of the 14th Congress, because they consider the congress to be concluded."

This view of the LCC [former initials of the League of Communists of Croatia]-Party of Democratic Renewal should also be connected with their official initiative to convene a 15th regular congress of a future completely reformed Yugoslav Communists' organization within a certain period of time. We have also learned unofficially that this initiative, which has been met with approval by some other republican party leaderships, will be discussed at the Presidium session tomorrow.

Debates will also be held—albeit eclipsed by these two topics— about the transformation of the KOMUNIST Newspaper Publishing and Printing Organization and some issues concerning the destiny of the Josip Broz Tito political school in Kumrovec.

Finance Minister Discusses Economic Program

LD1703055390 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2220 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Ljubljana, March 16 (TANJUG)—The federal government will not back down on a single commitment undertaken in its economic programme, or the necessary changes in the political system, Vice-Premier Aleksandar Mitrovic and Finance Minister Branko Zekan emphasized today. In a talk with businessmen from the economically most highly developed Yugoslav Republic of Slovenia, Mitrovic and Zekan announced a further drop in the prices of consumer goods and a negative inflation rate next month.

Within the framework of the federal government's economic measures, export will continue to feature prominently and is expected to rise, particularly export to convertible-currency markets, Mitrovic and Zekan said. They announced changes in the tariffs and sales by tax law, with the tariffs going down by 50 percent, and the sales taxes, by 30 percent.

Deputy Premier on Economic, Political Reform

LD0603223990 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1614 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Belgrade, March 6 (TANJUG)—After the economic reforms, the Yugoslav Government is now turning to political reforms, since it believes in a simultaneous development of both the market and democracy, Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister Zivko Pregl stressed at the beginning of a two-day seminar for foreign journalists here today.

Addressing some 40 foreign journalists, who specialize in economic affairs, Pregl recalled that the Yugoslav Government had changed or brought 40 laws since it came to power a year ago.